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Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XVIII, Issue No. 243 | SATURDAY AUGUST 30, 2008 | www.saipantribune.com | 50¢

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Should PSS put off the start of classes to mid-September when the power situation is expected to stabilize?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

17 DAYS until Sept. 16, when Aggreko generators are to start working

INSIDE

New Mandate
Surrounded by an adoring crowd, Barack Obama promised a clean break from the "broken politics" in Washington.

NATION...Page 10

Tallest Building
China's tallest building, the 101-story Shanghai World Financial Center, will open to the public on Saturday.

ASIA...Page 11

Sex Addict
David Duchovny has entered a rehabilitation facility for sex addiction.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 21

'Litigation only way to stop harm to NMI'. PAGE 2
Major road project begins on Tinian. PAGE 5

Outages expand to 3 hours

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY FAIR JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
Participants learn how to use the Crick software during the Assistive Technology Fair hosted by the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities' Assistive Technology Program and Public School System SpEd JIT members at the Aqua Resort Club in San Roque yesterday. The AT fair aims to demonstrate and inform the CNMI community of the assistive technology devices and software that are available for individuals with print and learning disabilities.

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is expanding the daily rotating power outages from two hours to three hours this week due to ongoing mechanical repairs on engines 2 and 8 at Power Plant 1.

The three-hour outages will be rotated across the entire island, with each section experiencing three outages in a 24-hour period.

CUC officials had hoped to repair engine 8 by yesterday, but are now anticipating it will not be operational until Sunday, according to a statement issued yesterday.

With engines 2 and 6 operating at Power Plant 1, and nine of the engines at Power Plant 4 working, CUC is producing approximately 24 megawatts of power.

See OUTAGES on Page 4

Report: Monument waters under human, eco threat

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
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BUSINESS EDITOR

In a newly released scientific report, backers of a proposal to designate a 115,000 square mile section of ocean in the CNMI's northern waters as a national marine monument say the region, a "hotspot" for biodiversity, is increasingly under threat from human activity and ecological changes.

President Bush in a memo issued earlier this week called on federal agencies to conduct an assessment of the region—the waters surrounding the islands of Maug, Uracus and Asuncion—to determine whether it

See REPORT on Page 4

Desperate for water, man turns to cardboard, markers

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

Koblerville resident David Lizama says he hopes a little creativity will get the attention of lawmakers and officials from the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

Lizama put up a cardboard sign in his front yard yesterday reading "Pls. CUC give us water!" after, he said, living without water from Saturday until early yesterday morning.

"I kind of feel frustrated with CUC," he said.

He plans on keeping the sign out for a month or

See DESPERATE on Page 4

Koblerville resident David Lizama stands beside the sign he put in front of his apartment building yesterday. His kids Roshelle, Dave and Davlyn surround him.
KRISTI EATON

Local

'Litigation only way to stop harm to NMI'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The federalization law will cause enormous harm to the CNMI and the only way to stop this harm from occurring is a court's injunction, according to governor's special legal counsel Howard Willens.

In his slide presentation to the Legislature, a copy of which was obtained by *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, Willens stated that litigation is about whether the U.S. Congress may invade the Commonwealth's right to self-government.

"This issue can be resolved only in the courts," he pointed out during Tuesday's closed-door presentation in the House's chamber.

Willens said litigation would challenge the following issues:

• Reduction of on-island foreign workers to zero (except those who hold H-visas)

• Imposition of federal permit system;

• Designation of all current workers as "illegals";

• Pre-emption of the CNMI's labor laws governing contracts and working conditions;

• Loss of labor fees to CNMI government;

• Loss of local control over how businesses contract with foreign workers;

• Loss of cover-over funds from immigration fees.

Willens stressed that the complaint makes only the Covenant and constitutional claims "necessary to preserve the Commonwealth's right to self-government" by challenging only the federalization laws' labor provisions.

He said the litigation will not challenge border security by agreeing to application of U.S. immigration laws.

Willens said the complaint merely asks for a preliminary injunction and that courts deal with these claims very expeditiously.

He also stressed that the complaint would not adversely affect negotiations over the federalization law's regulations.

First, he said, litigation is handled by the Department of Justice, not the Department of Homeland Security.

Second, Willens said, DHS officials have a responsibility to develop regulations in a fair and neutral process.

Finally, Willens said, DHS is often sued in federal court and retaliation in any litigation could lead to expensive consequences for the agency, "so federal officials simply do not engage in that kind of conduct."

Willens said this kind of settlement, however, can often be settled through consent decree.

In this case, he said, DHS has no room to negotiate on many issues unless it is in court.

With respect to the costs in pursuing a lawsuit, Willen said it can be controlled for three reasons.

He said this kind of litigation moves in well-defined stages; at each decision point the Commonwealth has a choice whether to move forward or drop it.

Second, he said, the litigation is controlled here in the CNMI and staffed by government lawyers.

The last reason he cited is that the outside law firm to be hired will control costs.

With respect to the lawsuit's arguments, he said Congress has no authority to regulate the Commonwealth except as provided in the Covenant.

"Section 103 of the Covenant authorizes the Commonwealth to exercise the right of local self-government and to govern itself with respect to its internal affairs in accordance with its Constitution," he asserted.

He also pointed to Section 105 of the Covenant that forbids the U.S. from abrogating the Commonwealth's right to local self-government without its consent.

"One of the necessary incidents of the right of local self-government is the right to regulate internal labor and economic affairs and to secure the economic prosperity of local residents," Willens said.

During the presentation, Willens tried to convince the Legislature to provide funding of about $400,000 in an eight-month period that he said the administration will need to pursue the lawsuit.

The top leaders of the House of Representataives--Speaker Arnold Palacios and Vice Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero—on Thursday spoke in unison to express their strong opposition to the administration's request to support the lawsuit. They said the CNMI should engage the federal government in dialogue instead of pursuing a costly but uncertain court battle.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

PARTNERSHIP

Saipan's first mutli-agency farm support group met at NMC CREES on Aug. 26, 2008, to provide support to Saipan local farmers and assistance in marketing their produce and agricultural by-products locally and abroad. The support group was initiated by the 10th Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council leadership in partnership with the Secretary of the Department of Lands and Natural Resources and the Northern Marianas Collge CREES program in consultation with the Governor's Office. In picture are, from left, DLNR manager for Administrative Services Manny Pangelinan; DLNR special assistant Henry Hofschneider; Council vice chair/secretary Ramon B. Camacho; Council chair Antonia M. Tudela; DLNR Secretary Dr. Ignacio T. Dela Cruz; Council adviser William Torres; and Ross Manglona, CREES director at NMC.

FHB donates furniture to Mount Carmel

HAGÅTÑA, Guam—First Hawaiian Bank is donating furniture from its old Tamuning Branch to Mount Carmel School, according to an announcement yesterday by First Hawaiian Bank's senior vice president, Guam and CNMI region manager, Laura-Lynn Dacanay.

"On behalf of our students, faculty, staff and parents, I want to thank First Hawaiian Bank for its contribution and support," said Michael Phillips, MCS Foundation chair. "Our school has come so far in the last year -- this gift of furniture is much needed and appreciated. We are grateful that First Hawaiian is a company that reaches out to help those in need in our community."

"First Hawaiian Bank is proud to be supporting Mount Carmel School with this furniture donation," says Dacanay. "Our bank is celebrating its 150th Anniversary this year and this donation continues the philanthropic tradition started by our founding father, Charles Reed Bishop, who dedicated his life to improve the lives of others and to create enriching educational opportunities for children."

Mount Carmel School, a nonprofit organization, is the only Catholic elementary and middle school in Southern Guam and serves the villages of Piti, Santa Rita, Agat, Umatac, Inarajan, Talofofo and Merizo. This year, the school is celebrating its 50th year of providing extraordinary education.

First Hawaiian Bank (www.fhb.com) with assets of $12.75 billion was founded in 1858 and is Hawaii's oldest and largest bank. This year the bank is celebrating 150 years in business, including 38 years on Guam. It has 58 branches in Hawaii, three on Guam and two on Saipan. ***(FHB)***

2010 census survey isn't optional—even in NMI

By PERRY SWANSON
THE GAZETTE

The government wants to get to know you, your name, gender, age, birth date and race. Who lives with you, do you own or rent your home?

It's not optional—a survey will arrive in the mail in March or April and by law you have to answer the questions truthfully and send it back. Refusing to answer the questionnaire is punishable by a fine up to $100; deliberately lying could bring a $500 fine.

The questions are part of the 2010 U.S. census, a once-a-decade effort to count everyone who lives in the country. It's kicking into high gear as the end of the decade approaches.

Federal agencies use data collected in the census to parcel out $300 billion in tax money annually, according to the Census Bureau. Money for federal highway projects, for example, is partly guided by census population figures.

"It's very important to local communities to have an accurate count so they can get their fair share of those dollars," census spokesman Doug Wayland said Wednesday.

The numbers guide how each state gets representatives in Congress. Local government agencies and businesses also use the data, all available for free on the census Web site, www.census.gov.

The count includes people who live in all 50 states, plus Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands and American Samoa. It takes in citizens and noncitizens. The estimated cost is $13.7 billion to $14.5 billion, the most expensive census since the counts started in 1790, even after adjusting for inflation, according to the Government Accountability Office.

Workers will send census surveys by mail, and people who don't reply will get a knock on their doors. Census officials work with groups in each local area to identify hard-to-count populations, such as organizations that run homeless shelters.

The Census Bureau keeps responses private - something federal law says it must do.

"The census takes that responsibility as a top priority," Wayland said. "Filling out the census is safe. Everyone who is hired by the census takes an oath of confidentiality. The penalties are severe, and then the data that is collected is not identified to the individual."

In previous surveys, every sixth household got a "long form" questionnaire with many more questions, down to how each person gets to work and whether a household has telephone service. The long form will be absent from the census in 2010, replaced by the annual American Community Survey, which goes to just 3 million households.

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'Fitial's OK on CUC hiring very timely'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

House Vice Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero said Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's approval of a bill to allow the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to hire 19 alien workers is very timely as the Aggreko International's power generators will soon arrive on Saipan.

In an interview with Saipan Tribune, Deleon Guerrero said CUC would now be able to bring in additional experienced and qualified foreign mechanics at the time when Aggreko generators would be coming in to provide temporary power supply.

Fitial signed House Bill 16-142 into Public Law 16-14 last Wednesday.

"In a way, the timing is good," Deleon Guerrero said, pointing out that the additional workers would provide relief to the overworked mechanics and staff at the CUC's power plant in Lower Base.

The vice speaker, who is the principal author of House Bill 16-142, said once Aggreko comes in, its engines would provide the "bridge" that would allow CUC turn off its power engines and conduct needed overhaul and rehabilitation.

The new law amended an existing statute to allow CUC to hire 19 alien workers until 2010 to address the severe manpower shortage at the power distribution division.

Press secretary Charles Reyes Jr. said Fitial realized how important the legislation is to CUC's power plants in Lower Base.

"We need skilled foreign workers to help CUC repair and maintain the engines," Reyes told Saipan Tribune shortly after the governor approved the legislation.

The Governor's Strategic Economic Development Council had also adopted a resolution urging Fitial to exercise his powers to hire guest workers for CUC to ensure the consistent delivery of power, water, and wastewater services to island residents.

Power plants officials had informed CUC executive director Antonio Muña that the removal of the 20 alien workers in September 2007 dramatically impacted the overall operation of the power generation division.

Last week, the House unanimously approved Deleon Guerrero's legislation. The Senate last Friday also unanimously passed the bill.

CUC immediately hired eight alien workers on Thursday. As a result, Muña said CUC was able to bring engine 6 in Power Plant 1 back on line.

CDA awarded $800K in Tinian school case

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

A jury yesterday found the Public School System owes the Commonwealth Development Authority $804,000 stemming from a lawsuit over the building of Tinian High School.

Earlier in the week, the same jury found Guerrero Brothers, Inc. owed Century Insurance Co. Ltd. $170,960.49.

"When you walk out with positive money, that's great," said Steve Pixley, lawyer for CIC.

It was a very complex case, and the jury did a great job looking at the facts, he added.

In 1993, PSS entitled GBI $3.85 million for completion of Tinian High School. To fund the project, GBI applied for a loan from CDA, which refused to give the loan. Instead, CDA decided to guaranty a loan GBI received from the Bank of Saipan. The Bank of Saipan agreed to a $500,000 revolving line of credit and a $300,000 loan. CDA and two of GBI's directors guaranteed the line of credit and loan, according to court documents.

On Dec. 17, 1993, CDA and the Bank of Saipan executed a guaranty of the loans in the amount of $800,000.

As GBI fell behind schedule on the project and realized it would not meet the January 1995 deadline, PSS gave GBI a seven-month extension to finish the project. To cover the expenses from the extension, GBI asked the Bank of Saipan to increase the line of credit from $500,000 to $1.3 million in May 1995. The bank refused without CDA's guaranty. A new guaranty was reached covering the $1.3 million loan that would expire on Jan. 7, 1996.

GBI then asked for another extension, which PSS granted. GBI received another guaranty from the bank given CDA's guaranty. The third guaranty expired on July 8, 1996.

More than three months after the third guaranty's expiration, the Bank of Saipan demanded the money. GBI sent the bank a letter, saying the bank should receive the outstanding debt from CDA, its "guarantor," according to court documents.

On Nov. 27,1996, the Bank of Saipan acknowledged receipt of more than $1 million from CDA. The bank also retained a 10 percent interest in the debt. CDA sent a notice of default to GBI, stating that guaranties secured by the mortgages were in default. When CDA attempted to collect the money, GBI argued the guaranties expired and were not enforceable, according to court documents.

'New office for indigenous not political'

Responding to community concerns, Martin Sakisat of the CNMI Descent for Self-Government and Indigenous rights, said the organization's recently opened office is intended to serve as a headquarters for its social welfare projects, not for political purposes.

"The reason for the existence of this office is not for going out in a radical way to perform radical demonstrations or radical protests," Sakisat said. "Rather, it is to open doors for our indigenous people."

The small office, sharing the same building as the Department of Labor, opened earlier this month and Sakisat said it has sparked some concerns from the community that it will be a staging ground for political efforts. The organization has recently gotten status as a nonprofit group, however, barring it from political work, Sakisat said.

"It's not a political office," he said. "The articles of corporation prohibit this office, by being itself chartered as a nonprofit, from endorsing any candidate or being connected with any politicians."

Instead, he added, the office is intended to help indigenous people find jobs and for other social welfare work. ***(Stefan Sebastian)***

Fitial declares September as Disaster Preparedness Month

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial signs a proclamation declaring September as Disaster Preparedness Month during a formal ceremony at the Multi-Purpose Center Aug. 29. With him in this photo are, left to right, Rep. Diego Benavente, vice principal Naomi Nishimura of WSR Elementary School, Fitial, Emergency Management Office acting Director Mark Panelinan and Patrick Tenorio.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial signed a proclamation declaring September as Disaster Preparedness Month in a formal ceremony yesterday at the Multi-Purpose Center.

Fitial thanked the Emergency Management Office led by acting Director Mark Pangelinan for the "tremendous job" they have done in educating the public about disaster preparedness issues.

"While they cannot be prevented, the effects of disasters can be mitigated through well-organized public education, risk assessment and proper planning. This is the goal of CNMI Disaster Preparedness Month," Fitial said.

He urged the people to take advantage of the opportunities provided during the month to become aware and better prepared for any natural or man-made disaster that may strike.

Weekly activities are divided into four different areas—Business Preparedness Week, Multi-Cultural Week, PSS School Week and Family Planning Week.

EMO adviser Dr. Ken Shankweiler , who read the proclamation before it was signed by the governor, explained that it is the duty of the government to educate all sectors of the community, including business, people of all nationalities, students, youth, educators and family members.

He said they want the business community to be involved this time because in the past government agencies were the only ones doing the effort.

The proclamation stated that for a long time, the CNMI has been ravaged by natural and man- made disasters and exposed to risks. These disasters or risks include typhoons, earthquakes, wildfires, drought, volcanic eruptions, hazardous material incidents, and ongoing threats of terrorism.

"These types of disasters have caused tragic loss of lives, injury and millions of dollars in damage and economic loss."

Just as other parts of the world are affected by calamities of huge proportions, Fitial noted that the CNMI has been particularly vulnerable to the devastation of typhoons and floods.

He said that, while the CNMI government supports safety and security for individuals with special needs, it is the policy of the executive departments and agencies to consider the following:

the unique needs of employees with special needs and individuals with special needs served by the agency

the consideration of the unique needs of employees and individuals with special needs in emergency preparedness planning; and

the facilitation of cooperation in the implementation of emergency preparedness plans as they relate to individuals with special needs.

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on August 28, 2008, CHOSON INTERNATIONAL (CNMI) CORPORATION, a CNMI Corporation, filed with the Registrar of Corporation its Articles of Dissolution.

THEREFORE, pursuant to 4 CMC § 4607, any unknown claims against CHOSON INTERNATIONAL (CNMI) CORPORATION, will be barred unless a proceeding to enforce such claim is commenced within five (5) years after the publication of this notice.

All claims should state the name and address of the claimant including the nature of such claim and should be mailed to the following address:

P.O. Box 7480 SVRB
Saipan, MP 96950

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

MHS calendar of activities

Sept. 2 Teachers report to work at 7:30am
Sept. 2 - 3 School level Professional Development days
Sept. 3 Freshmen Orientation Schedule: MHS Cafeteria
■ Freshmen last names beginning with-ending with:
A-Delos Reyes 1 p.m.-2p.m. (Ms. Tudela)
Dlg-Le 2 p.m.-3p.m. (Mr. Cabrera)
Li-Reyes 3p.m.-4p.m. (Ms. Vivao)
Ri-Z 4 p.m.-5 p.m. (Ms. Cabrera)
Sept. 4 - 5 State level Professional Development days
Sept. 8 First Day of School
■ Students report to Homeroom at 7:50am
■ Refer to Homeroom Listing in school bulletin board (Bldg A)
■ Homeroom List will be posted on Sep 02 for advance viewing by students/parents
■ Class schedules will be distributed on the first day of school
Note to parents: Please drive slowly; follow school signs and safety officers. For questions and concerns, contact 237-3206. ***(PR)***

Parent orientation at SAES

San Antonio Elementary School would like to inform the public that parent orientation for the following grade levels will be as follows:
Sept. 8 (Monday)
■ 4th Graders—4pm -5pm
■ 5th Graders—5pm - 6pm
■ 6th Graders—6pm - 7pm
Sept. 9 (Tuesday)
■ 1st Graders—4pm - 5pm
■ 2nd Graders—5pm - 6pm
■ 3rd Graders—6pm - 7pm
"The orientation will be in each respective classroom. We would like to ask all the parents to be present to receive important information that will be given out by each classroom teacher," school officials said in a statement. ***(PR)***

KHS calendar of activities

Sept. 2-5 All student class schedules will be released at the school site from 8:30am to 3:30pm
Sept. 8 Classes begin

Chacha student orientation set

Chacha Ocean View Jr. High School announced yesterday that it will be having its student orientation on Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2008, at 2:30pm in the school cafeteria. For more information, call 237-3921 or 664-4100. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

PARENT TRAINING
Parents of children with special needs and resource speaker Susan Yuan gather for a photo during the three-day training co-sponsored by the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities and CNMI Association of Families with Disabilities with the theme centered on "How to exercise parents rights" and "Making the IEP Work for Parents and Children" at the Pacific Islands Club.

OUTAGES

From Page 1

Earlier this week CUC was down to producing less than 20 megawatts of power when only one engine was working at Power Plant 1.

In order for CUC to follow the two-hour load shedding schedule, at least three engines must be operational, Gary Camacho, acting Power Division manager, said on Wednesday.

The Aggreko generators, which should be operational by mid-September, will allow for 15 to 18 additional megawatts, said CUC executive director Antonio Muna.

The following load shedding schedule is for today through Sept. 5:

8am - 11am Feeder-1 Second partial
Upper Navy Hill, Upper MIHA, 99 Cent store
Feeder-2: Entire Grid
Portions of Lower Base, CPA (Seaport), Beach Road Garapan south to San Jose Intersection
Feeder-7: Entire Grid
Lower Base industrial area, north to Tanapag, Achugao, San Roque, As Matuis and Marpi

11am - 2pm Feeder-3: Second partial
Upper Gualo Rai and Taro Sue
Kiya 1: Entire Grid
As Terlaje, NMC, Portions of Fina Sisu, San Vicente to Botanical Garden, Lower Dandan Homestead, Upper, Dandan Homested, Isley Field
Kiya-4: Entire Grid
Chalan Kiya, San Jose, Oleai, Susupe, Mount Carmel and south to portions of Chalan Kanoa

2pm - 5pm Feeder-1 Second partial
Upper Navy Hill, Upper MIHA, 99 Cent store
Feeder-2: Entire Grid
Portions of Lower Base, CPA (Seaport), Beach Road Garapan south to San Jose Intersection
Feeder-7: Entire Grid
Lower Base industrial area, north to Tanapag, Achugao, San Roque, As Matuis and Marpi

5pm -8pm Feeder-3: Second partial
Upper Gualo Rai, Taro Sue
Kiya 1: Entire Grid
As Terlaje, NMC, Portions of Fina Sisu, San Vicente to Botanical Garden, Lower Dandan Homestead, Upper, Dandan Homested, Isley Field
Kiya-4: Entire Grid
Chalan Kiya, San Jose, Oleai, Susupe, Mount Carmel and south to portions of Chalan Kanoa

8pm - 11pm Feeder-4: Entire Grid
Portions of Lower Base, Sadog Tasi, Capital Hill, Kagman and portions of Papago (Botanical Garden)
Kiya-2: Entire Grid
As Lito, Koblerville, As Gonno, San Antonio and Afetnas, portions of Fina Sisu

11pm - 2pm Feeder-3: Second partial
Upper Gualo Rai, Taro Sue
Kiya 1: Entire Grid
As Terlaje, NMC, Portions of Fina Sisu, San Vicente to Botanical Garden, Lower Dandan Homestead, Upper, Dandan Homested, Isley Field
Kiya-4: Entire Grid
Chalan Kiya, San Jose, Oleai, Susupe, Mount Carmel and south to portions of Chalan Kanoa

2am - 5am Feeder-1 Second partial
Upper Navy Hill, Upper MIHA, 99 Cent store
Feeder-2: Entire Grid
Portions of Lower Base, CPA (Seaport), Beach Road Garapan south to San Jose Intersection
Feeder-7: Entire Grid
Lower Base industrial area, north to Tanapag, Achugao, San Roque, As Matuis and Marpi

5am - 8am Feeder-4: Entire Grid
Portions of Lower Base, Sadog Tasi, Capital Hill, Kagman and portions of Papago (Botanical Garden)
Kiya-2: Entire Grid
As Lito, Koblerville, As Gonno, San Antonio and Afetnas, portions of Fina Sisu

REPORT

From Page 1

is a suitable site for establishing a monument, a move that would give it federal protection.

Safeguarding these waters is critical due to the diversity of the species found there and the potential harm they face from human encroachment on the nearby islands, poaching and the cumulative impact of carbon dioxide emissions, according to a report issued this week by the Pew Charitable Trust.

"The remoteness of the northern islands will not protect them," Dr. Rusty Brainard, an oceanographer with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, says in the report. "By boat, they are only a day away from Saipan. It would be easy to significantly exploit them."

The proposed monument has proven controversial in the CNMI, with opponents saying the plan would intrude on local autonomy and block any future fishing and mining efforts around the northern islands.

The Pew trust's report, however, highlights several ecological threats to those waters that it argues boost the case for preserving them. Key among them is the impact of human encroachment, including the population boom expected by the pending military buildup on Guam.

"The proposed monument takes on even greater importance as populations, construction projects and associated impacts in the southern part of the archipelago increase," the report says. "Since Guam is a major transportation hub in the Pacific, increased boat and air traffic associated with the troop relocation pose a worrisome threat to wildlife throughout the CNMI."

Protecting the waters around the Pacific's uninhabited islands—like those that would be encompassed by the monument—is also critical because poachers and fishermen target those regions, the report says, often taking a toll on the local environment.

In addition, ocean acidification—changes in the Ph level of ocean water due to the absorption of carbon dioxide that can make it more acidic—poses a significant threat to ocean corals and other aquatic life due to anthropogenic pollution, the report says. Yet the proposed monument could serve as a refuge from this threat if they are preserved, the report notes.

"[I]f you want to look for an area of the ocean where you might see a refuge for corals due to the acidification problem that we anticipate through the next century, the area proposed for a monument might be a good spot," James Barry, a senior scientists with the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute, says in the report, adding the issue is closely linked to climate change and rising sea levels.

Yet a major impetus for preserving the monument's water, the report says, remains the region's overwhelming biodiversity. For example, the report notes that a Navy survey conducted in 2007 found 19 species of whales and dolphins in the Marianas, including some of the world's rarest species of beaked whales. The region also has the greatest diversity of seamount and hydrothermal vent life yet seen on planet earth, the report says, and its islands are the last remaining refuge for the endangered Marianas fruit bat.

Meanwhile, opponents of the monument proposal are calling it an "arbitrary" and "political" endeavor that ignores the concerns of local stakeholders.

The process of designating the CNMI's waters as a monument is a "unilateral, arbitrary presidential action that eschews weighing stakeholder concerns in a fair manner," according to a statement issued this week by CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife Director Sylvan Igisomar. "Furthermore, designation is a permanent action that is unlikely to be reversed by a subsequent U.S. Congress, even if the monument is later discovered to be ill- designed and non-functional."

Igisomar and John Joyner, director of the Coastal Resources Management Office, will debate staff with the Pew Trust at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's general membership meeting Wednesday at the Saipan Grand Hotel.

DESPERATE

From Page 1

two, he said.

"So lawmakers can see what we're going through," he added. "They need to come out to the public to understand."

Power has been sporadic, but even when there is power, water is not a guarantee, he said.

"If the power is on…at least give us a couple hours of power," he said.

Bruce Megarr, CUC Water and Sewer Division deputy director, said the constant power outages wreak havoc on the water pumps and pipes.

"When the power goes out, it causes damages to the pump," he said. "We did experience that. We believe all of them are back up, but I'm not 100 percent sure. We will by end of the day."

In the southern part of the island, most of the water wells are tied to one electrical grid, so when it goes down 50 percent of the supply is lost, Megarr said. The water division is working closely with the power side to minimize the outages as much as possible, he added. Also, the division is working to replace transformers and balancing the pumps.

"We're taking aggressive measures," Megarr added.

Lizama recently bought 5,000 gallons of water to deal with the situation, and he regularly spends $50 to $100 each month on additional water, he said.

Lizama and his wife, Rosie, have also started collecting rainwater.

"Any kind of water supply Mother Nature can give us" we collect, he added.

It's difficult living with the three to five hour power outages several times a day because it's uncomfortable and food gets ruined, but it's bearable, he said.

"What's hurting us is the water," he added.

He has told his tenants in his apartment building they shouldn't use the water to wash clothes, only to flush the toilet, wash dishes and take showers, he said.

Lizama said he thinks the fire department should provide water to the neighborhoods when the power is out.

Major road project begins on Tinian

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
stefan_sebastian@saipantribune.com
BUSINESS EDITOR

A road crew began a multi-million dollar project to pave a major section of road on Tinian this week, a long awaited plan funded with federal highway money.

In an interview Friday, William Cing, adviser to Tinian Mayor Jose San Nicolas, reported the road work—the paving and widening sections of Routes 201 and 202 on the island—has already begun. The project will pave the roadways from their intersection with Broadway, one of the main roads on the island, through center of San Jose to the local docks and widen them to two lanes.

Cing added the project would include the installation of sidewalks and drainage. The plan is funded through federal highway money, he said. Exact figures on its price tag, however, were not immediately available. The project must be completed within 270 working days under the terms of the funding.

"It's a welcome thing," said Tinian businesswoman Kimberly Hinds. "This is a project that's been a long time in coming. The road is one of the main arteries through town."

Workers began surveying for the project over the weekend, Hinds said.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY FAIR
Participants from Saipan, Tinian and Rota and Crick Software training consultant Eleri Hanley gather for a group photo during the Assistive Technology Fair hosted by the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities' Assistive Technology Program and Public School System SpEd JIT members at the Aqua Resort Club in San Roque yesterday.

Immigration forum set today

The forum on CNMI Immigration Reform and Non-Immigrant Visa is set today, Aug. 30, from 2pm to 5:30pm at Saipan Community Church, Susupe.

Lawyer Nelson J. Xu of the Guam-based L.A. Baumann & Associates is the speaker.

The Philippine Consulate General team will also set up a booth for OWWA membership application and renewal.

This forum is open to the public and is free of charge. If you are an employer who might have questions about acquiring visas for your employees starting June 1, 2009, or an IR who wants to know the process and fee for conversion of status, you are invited to attend.

For more details, call Irene Tantiado at 285 7717. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Madoka Fukutomi, a third year student from the Nagasaki International University, receives her certificate of recognition from Marianas Visitors Authority acting managing director Judy Torres.

PDI's tourism intern completes program

A student from the Nagasaki International University has just completed a three-week internship program with the Pacific Development Inc. on Saipan.

Third-year college student Madoka Fukutomi got her certificate of recognition from Mariana Visitors Authority's acting managing director Judy C. Torres after finishing PDI's Tourism Industry Internship Training Program in a simple ceremony yesterday.

Fukutomi's on the job training ran from Aug. 8 to 29.

She said the internship broadened her outlook in life and, by working in a foreign country, she gained more friends.

Fukutomi finished her secondary studies at Luther Senior High School in Japan.

She returned to Japan yesterday to continue her final year of studies. Her career goal is "to be able to help the tourists have a good time." ***(Nazario Rodriguez Jr.)***

Pacifica Arts exhibit opens today

The Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture will open its Annual CNMI Cultural Heritage and Arts Pacifica Exhibit today at the Joeten Motors Building in San Jose.

The exhibit will be open until Sept. 30, 2008.

The CNMI Cultural Heritage Exhibit will feature traditional Carolinian and Chamorro crafts as part of the CNMI-wide Cultural Heritage month celebration in September.

The Arts Pacifica Exhibit will also feature artworks from the Pacific Islands such as Micronesia, Polynesia, and Melanesia.

"Together with CCAC's newest partner, Joeten Motors, we aim to continue the efforts of promoting, protecting an preserving our unique cultures thru exhibits like such, as well provide an opportunity for public appreciation of the quality and unique arts and cultures of the Chamorro's and Carolinian's as well the inclusion of neighboring cultures," the Arts Council said in a statement.

All interested artists and collectors are encouraged to submit and register their artwork at the Arts Council office located on Capital Hill. Regular exhibit hours are from 8am to 6pm on Mondays through Fridays, and 8am to 12pm on Saturdays at the Joeten Motors Showcase Room on Beach Road, San Jose.

For more information, contact Arts Coordinator Lucille T. Ayuyu at (670) 322-9982/9983. ***(PR)***

Vintage ammo to be detonated on Farallon

The U.S. Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal Detachment Team from Guam will be detonating World War II unexploded ordnance on the island of Farallon de Mendenilla on Sept. 2 - 3, 2008 from 6am to 6pm.

In a notice issued yesterday, the Emergency Management Office, in conjunction with U.S. Naval Forces Marianas Guam, and AMPRO, said the location of this activity will be on the island of Farallon de Mendenilla Training Area on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants.

Due to the danger imposed by this activity, EMO is advising the public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—to stay away from this area during the time and dates indicated.

Should you have any questions, contact the EMO Operations Section at telephone numbers 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF MARINE CHNL 16, and HF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0. ***(EMO)***

CIVIC SERVICE
On Aug. 23, 2008, Saipan Southern High School and Kagman High School JROTC cadets spent their weekend helping celebrate the American Memorial Park's 30th anniversary. The Park's staff was very thankful for the two schools and their instructors, SGM Joaquin Kiyoshi of SSHS and MSG James Burke of KHS and their cadets for helping out during this significant event.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

HAPPY BIRTHDAY JADEN!!!
jUst wAnNa wish you a very happy birthday... may all your wishes come true and God bless. Take care, sweetie.
-from sketch && ashley

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
A birthday greeting for Jaden! We just want to wish you a very happy birthday! May all your wishes come true and God bless. Take care, sweetie. From Sketch and Ashley.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XVIII, Issue No. 243

Published daily at 2/F CIC Centre,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

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EDITORIAL

Clinton the uniter

When Hillary Rodham Clinton moved Wednesday night that Barack Obama be nominated for president by acclamation of the Democratic National Convention, she added action to the powerful words of her tribute to Obama on Tuesday. Whatever her internal ambivalence, the runner-up for the party's nomination has made a commitment to party unity that even her most bitter supporters will find difficult to ignore.

It was only recently that Clinton insisted her followers needed a "catharsis" at the convention, which sounded to some Obama supporters like a call for a co-starring role in Denver. Ironically, she achieved that role not by competing with Obama but by embracing him. Her pivotal procedural part in his nomination was foreshadowed by her remarkable address Tuesday night, in which she essentially told her delegates (in the words of Justice Antonin Scalia, referring to the Supreme Court's resolution of the 2000 presidential election) to "get over it."

She didn't use exactly those words, but the message was the same: "I haven't spent the past 35 years in the trenches advocating for children, campaigning for universal health care, helping parents balance work and family, and fighting for women's rights at home and around the world to see another Republican in the White House squander the promise of the country and the hopes of our people." Perhaps more important, she was unequivocal in her endorsement of the candidate who will inherit her agenda. "Barack Obama is my candidate," Clinton said. "And he must be our president."

That didn't stop some pundits and Republicans from observing that she didn't explicitly say Obama would be an acceptable commander in chief, a statement that would have atoned for her TV commercial sowing doubt about how he would respond to a 3 a.m. phone call. Yet Clinton affirmed in her speech that Obama would "meet the global challenges of our time." Close enough.

The remarkable feature of the post-primary Clinton-Obama courtship is that they didn't have to traverse much policy to embrace one another. In 1976, serious differences, especially on foreign policy, divided Gerald R. Ford, the Republican incumbent, and Ronald Reagan. The same was true of the Democratic contest in 1980 between President Carter and Sen. Edward M. Kennedy. What divided Clinton and Obama in the minds of many of their supporters was the battle to be "the first"—either the first female president or the first African American president. If that was the case, Clinton's heartfelt endorsement may be more than just a reconciliation between competing candidates.

(c) 2008, Los Angeles Times

IN DENVER
WE'RE SOLD OUT OF 'THE ECONOMY STINKS' T-SHIRTS... HOW ABOUT A 'WHIP RECESSION NOW' BUTTON?
I'LL TAKE A DOZEN!
Sale
THINVENTION ENIRS
HIGH TIMES TELEGRAM & GAZETTE

Are we safer?

By BRIAN D. FINLAY
SPECIAL TO THE BALTIMORE SUN

The impending closure of the FBI's investigation of the anthrax-laced mailings of 2001 has generated new interest in the question: Are we safer today than we were when anthrax was distributed up and down the Eastern seaboard, killing five people and sickening 17 others? Unfortunately, the answer is probably no—despite our government's best efforts to prevent a future bioterrorist incident.

Bioterrorism is like no other national security threat. What makes defending against it so challenging is the blurred line between beneficial research and destructive intent. For example, some of the same knowledge and equipment used to generate new lifesaving drugs also could inflict mass casualties in the hands of bioterrorists. As globalization spreads these biotechnologies around the world in support of improved public health, potentially dangerous knowledge is being placed in the hands of more individuals in more countries than ever before.

The problem can be domestic, as illustrated by the 2001 anthrax attacks, which the FBI says were launched by Bruce E. Ivins, a researcher at Fort Detrick in Frederick, Md. Since 2001, 11 U.S. government agencies have spent upward of $50 billion to meet the threat of biological weapons. This has resulted in the rapid growth in the number of research organizations—public and private—that are handling dangerous biological agents. The inability of the military's secure facility to prevent dispersion of anthrax highlights the practical complications of monitoring minute but deadly quantities of pathogens and toxins.

The problem is compounded many times over internationally. According to unclassified U.S. government sources, al-Qaida and an unknown number of other terrorist organizations, as well as Iran, Syria, North Korea and nine other countries, are pursuing offensive biological weapons programs. In many cases, their efforts are linked to—and masked by—civilian programs with allegedly peaceful purposes.

The biotechnological revolution has stimulated drastic worldwide growth in biological research and development and pharmaceuticals. For instance, in 2006, the Iranian drug market reached an estimated $1.58 billion, and it is expected to grow 50 percent by 2011. As part of its national development strategy, Iran has made a concerted effort to encourage foreign drug companies to enter the Iranian market, introducing new technologies and capacities into that country to service its public health needs. But some experts allege that Iran has used these same capacities to develop small quantities of bioweapon agents, such as ricin, plague and the smallpox virus.

Iran also has opened its doors to a British pharmaceutical company to conduct clinical trials on a product containing botulinum toxin. The company's decision to conduct trials might have involved the sharing of critical dual-use information. The willingness of legitimate foreign companies to share sensitive data with state sponsors of terrorism raises serious questions about our capacities to control sensitive biological agents, toxins and know-how.

In large part, we are not safer since 9/11 because of governments' inability to compete effectively with the rapid pace of emerging biotechnologies, especially in separating their peaceful from their potentially hostile uses. This challenge cannot be addressed solely by increased government funding. Today, the threat is increasingly diffuse, ranging from small-scale, moderately sophisticated terrorist cells to legitimate biopharmaceutical companies that unwittingly might provide processes or materials for offensive bioweapons research.

The critical convergence of biotechnology and the rise of catastrophic terrorist intent highlights the need for greater cooperation between the public and private sectors in the areas of public health and national security. We need to incorporate industry and government into a coordinated strategy to monitor and regulate the proliferation of the most sensitive biological technologies. This means that the Food and Drug Administration and the rest of the Department of Health and Human Services must realize that decisions made in the name of public health could well have an effect on U.S. national security.

For example, the FDA is considering the approval of drugs by foreign companies whose dual-use research is prohibited by U.S. law for U.S. companies on national security and other grounds. The proliferation of high-security biosafety laboratories has occurred without any apparent consideration of the added risk of dangerous biological substances being handled at more locations and by more researchers.

Similarly, the biotech and pharmaceutical industries should appreciate that they too have a stake in the nonproliferation of dual-use technologies—certainly for reasons of national security, but also as it impacts their bottom line if their technology becomes a security risk.

All parties need to begin exercising stricter control over their technologies and inculcate security concerns into their decision-making by taking the threat of biological weapons as seriously as the threat from nuclear weapons. Until that happens, we will all remain more susceptible than we should be to the next bioterrorist attack.

Finlay, senior associate at the Henry L. Stimson Center in Washington, D.C., is an expert on nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction. His e-mail is bfinlay@stimson.org.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, Century Insurance Building, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Culture wars are a figment of politicos' imagination

By DICK MEYER
Special to the Los Angeles Times

Meyer is the editorial director of Digital Media for National Public Radio and the author of Why We Hate Us: American Discontent in the New Millennium.

As the nation's attention reluctantly turns to the political parties' conventions, with their scripted suspense and stage-managed sentiment, it is important to keep in mind that these are phony representations of American political life. But the slick video profiles, the teary appearance of a beloved party elder—these are not what is phoniest about the conventions.

This gathering of America's civic tribes—and the reporters who love them—in separate cities for days of synchronized cheering and jeering is the embodiment of a great American myth: that the nation is divided into "two Americas," polarized between "red" and "blue" camps that have fundamentally different values and moral outlooks. Each of the nominees will tell our allegedly divided country that he, and he alone, can manage to unite America for the next four years.

The idea that there is vast war over the moral and spiritual compass of the nation is a dramatic narrative, and it has dominated popular political analysis for nearly two decades. It makes for potent, inflammatory political commercials. It just doesn't have the added virtue of being true.

In 1991, a scholar at the University of Virginia named James Davison Hunter coined a term that has haunted us ever since in his provocative book, "Culture Wars: The Struggle to Define America." His argument was that America's history of religious pluralism had devolved into two antagonistic movements, one progressive and the other orthodox or fundamental. But Hunter also noted, "In truth, most Americans occupy a vast middle ground between the polarizing impulses of American culture." That was and remains the case.

But at the 1992 Republican National Convention in Houston, Pat Buchanan fired the phony war's first shot in anger. "There is a religious war going on in our country for the soul of America," declared Buchanan in prime time. "It is a cultural war." The assembled media corps loved it. And red and blue bruises have distorted the American body politic ever since.

Poll after poll, focus group after focus group show that the vast majority of Americans—the Silent Majority, perhaps?—are pragmatic, independent and un-partisan in their basic views. They are eclectic: "liberal" on some matters, "conservative" on others. They are not slaves to that hobgoblin of small minds, consistency. On fundamental matters such as belief in equality for women and minorities, or how large a role religion and family play in individuals' lives, the consensus among voters is broad. Unlike other times in U.S. history, there simply are no issues such as slavery, Prohibition or Vietnam that inspire violent protest or social disruption.

In his 2005 book, "Culture War? The Myth of a Polarized America," Stanford University political scientist Morris P. Fiorina showed that when you examine the actual views of Americans, "Voters are not deeply or bitterly divided." This held true even on the issues that are supposedly the most contentious: abortion, immigration and gun control. To analyze the most polarized recent presidential election, that of 2000, Fiorina divided the nation into Democratic-voting "blue" states and Republican-backing "red" ones—and found that voters in these supposedly warring camps had much in common. On immigration, for example, he found 41 percent of blue-state voters wanted it reduced, as did 43 percent of red-state voters; 43 percent of blue-state voters believed protecting the environment should trump protecting jobs, as did 42 percent of red-state voters. And 62 percent of voters in red and blue states believed that Americans should tolerate each other's moral views. Fiorina also has found that these patterns held through the 2004 election.

In fact, it's because we agree on so much that our elections are so close. Fiorina's "sorting" theory of voter behavior explains it with a certain simple elegance: Voters dislike both parties equally. And since the widespread disenchantment of Watergate, they trust neither party with great power. So in election after election in which most voters face only two choices, both unpopular, their votes understandably get sorted into two roughly equal halves.

Extremists, however rare, are becoming more common and, importantly, more rabid. Analyzing survey data from the National Opinion Research Center, political scientist Arthur Brooks discovered that the percentage of people who described themselves as either "extreme liberals" or "extreme conservatives" grew a stunning 35 percent from 1972 to 2004. Still, as a percentage of the total population, the extremist factions—right and left combined—remain a small slice, 6.6 percent. These civic slivers obsess disproportionately on whatever issues are most divisive at the moment, while the majority of voters stick with basic economic and national security concerns.

Extremists, Brooks also found, have grown more intolerant and prone to "personal demonization." Pollsters use something called "feeling thermometers" to gauge how people react to others. Extreme liberals and extreme conservatives are now essentially dead to one another, as Tony Soprano might have put it. That is new.

The political elite and the politically engaged are, of course, much more likely to be on the extreme wings than the majority. These also happen to be the people who not only go to conventions, but whom the cable news bookers corral to argue about politics on their shows. Increasingly, they are also the people who host television and radio talk shows, who publish blogs and who make civic noise.

But they are not us. Despite the stories we will read, hear and see this week and next, Americans are a much more pragmatic, moderate and independent crowd. But we do need to be careful not to pick up the intolerance and bad manners of those who seek our votes.

7 years to climate midnight

By CARLOS PASCUAL and STROBE TALBOTT
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

Carlos Pascual and Strobe Talbott are, respectively, vice president for foreign policy studies and president of the Brookings Institution. They are involved in a joint project with Stanford University and New York University on global governance, including on the issue of climate change.

The world may have only seven years to start reducing the annual buildup in greenhouse gas emissions that otherwise threatens global catastrophe within several decades. That means that between Inauguration Day in January 2009 and 2015, either John McCain or Barack Obama will face the most momentous political challenge of all time.

Reflecting a consensus of hundreds of scientists around the world, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has affirmed that greenhouse gas emissions are raising the Earth's temperature. The Earth is on a trajectory to warm more than 4.5 degrees Fahrenheit by around mid-century. Exceeding that threshold could trigger a series of phenomena: Arable land will turn into desert, higher sea levels will flood coastal areas, and changes in the convection of the oceans will alter currents, such as the Gulf Stream, that determine regional weather patterns.

Manhattan and Florida would be under water, while Nevada would have no water at all. Some Russians quip that they would welcome a more temperate climate, but they would probably be sorry to lose St. Petersburg. Countries such as Bangladesh and Mali do not have the resources to mitigate or even to adapt to the impact of climate change; millions would flee coastal flooding and the desertification of farmlands, creating instant "climate refugees."

The head of the Nobel Prize-winning IPCC, R.K. Pachauri, recently told us: "The cities, power plants and factories we build in the next seven years will shape our climate in mid-century. We have to act now to price carbon and create incentives to change the way we use energy and spread technology — and thereby avert nothing less than an existential threat to civilization."

Urgent and drastic action by the international community is required, and the United States must take the lead.

Americans produce more than four times as much carbon per capita as the Chinese; 12 times as much as Indians; and more than twice as much as citizens of Germany, France, Britain and Japan. Unless the United States acts first, it will have no credibility in persuading other countries to do their share.

To their credit, McCain and Obama support the creation of a cap-and-trade system that would limit national emissions. Trading among firms would put a price on carbon. That is an essential step toward changing industry behavior, encouraging energy conservation and providing an incentive for new technologies. As the most powerful national economy, the United States can set an example for the world in harnessing wind and solar power; "sequestering" (or capturing) carbon from coal plants; and developing cellulosic ethanol and safe civilian nuclear power as alternatives to fossil fuels.

But the domestic obstacles to these and other measures are daunting. While some industries will prosper, other sectors of the economy, especially those that produce or rely on coal, steel and cement, will contract. Electricity prices will increase in the near and middle terms. Many workers and households will need help with the costs of transition.

Coping with the resulting economic and political hardships would be onerous even if the next president inherited forward-looking climate-change policies. But George W. Bush has pursued an "anti-policy," based on a combination of denial, procrastination and backsliding. His successor will have to make up for lost time while also dealing with a half-trillion-dollar federal deficit, a recession and a national housing crunch, a looming health-care crisis, wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and diplomatic showdowns with North Korea and Iran.

The winner in November will need all the help he can get—including from his opponent, who will go back to the Senate as a major voice on this and other issues. The next president will also need support from the private sector, nongovernmental organizations, academia and—crucially—citizens who recognize the consequences if they do not consent to sacrifices and changes in lifestyle.

Many Americans will accept that logic, and make real changes, only if they believe greenhouse gas emissions will affect them personally. Today's adults, even if they will not be around at mid-century, must think about the fate of their children and grandchildren. Obama can look to his two daughters, and McCain to his four grandchildren. They are among nearly 75 million Americans — and 2.2 billion people worldwide — younger than 18. That generation will be in its 40s or 50s when one of two things happens: Either the temperature of the planet warms more than 4.5 degrees and vast regions slide toward being uninhabitable, or the wisdom of the next president and his fellow leaders around the world pays off in the ultimate reward—survival.

Letters to the Editor

Supporters are in good company

In gathering signatures for the petition for the marine monument, most people support the marine monument. Interestingly enough, 10 of the 17 letters opposed to the marine monument have come from Mr. John Gourley. Most of the rest were from members of Wespac. More than two pages in support of the marine monument and not even a page opposed. You are alone in your opposition, John.

Commercial fishermen will, in fact, benefit. If they request a fishing base on Pagan, they could refuel and keep their fish on ice. This Pagan fuel storage facility could also be used as a stop for tourists to the marine monument. It is something that could be negotiated when the federal officials come to assess the marine monument. This is a win-win for everyone. Think about it.

Ken Kramer
Fina Sisu

Thanks for the support

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those supporters who signed my petition for my candidacy as a U.S. Delegate. Today I was informed by the Election Commission that I am officially certified to be your candidate for the Democratic Party.

As I venture out on this campaign to reach everyone in the CNMI and ask for their support, I also would like to ask our Democrat Party members for their support, patience and cooperation in uniting together for our common goals. I cannot emphasize enough the importance of placing a fellow Democrat in Washington. It is a lot easier to make our voices heard on things that we want to accomplish for the CNMI if the request is from among friends rather than foes.

Again, I am No. 3 on the ballot, and I ask the general public for their support and assistance for the general election in November. On behalf of the Democratic Party Officials, thank you for your support.

David M. Cing
Tinian

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲87° ▼76°	▲88° ▼77°	▲87° ▼76°

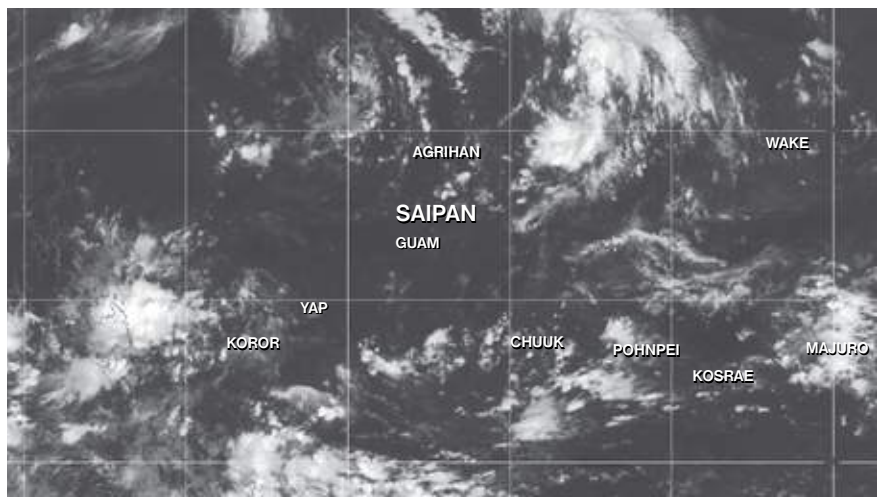
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Sunny	▲86	▼76
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	▲87	▼78
Yap	Cloudy	▲87	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼78
Pohnpei	Partly Sunny	▲89	▼74
Kosrae	Cloudy	▲89	▼77
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼75

Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	▲56	▼42
Beijing	Rain	▲81	▼66
Hong Kong	Cloudy	▲89	▼79
Honolulu	Showers	▲84	▼76
London	Cloudy	▲79	▼63
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲82	▼66
Manila	Thundershowers	▲87	▼77
Melbourne	Rain	▲62	▼50
Miami	Thundershowers	▲89	▼79
New York	Thundershowers	▲79	▼68
Osaka	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼74
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲84	▼66
Pusan	Partly Sunny	▲84	▼71
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲86	▼65
Salem	Sunny	▲72	▼47
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲71	▼55
Seoul	Sunny	▲90	▼70
Tokyo	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼75
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲84	▼71

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, FRIDAY, AUGUST 29, 2008
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A low to mid-level low pressure system centered near 23N155E is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms northeast of the Marianas and over Minami Tori Shima or within an area bounded by a line from 25N155E to 15N150E to 23N164E back to 25N155E. An upper-level low centered near 22N140E is causing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over the extreme Northern Marianas or within an area bounded by a line from 25N147E to 25N140E to 19N133E to 19N145E back to 25N147E. Low-level convergence associated with a surface low centered near 7N128E is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms west of Koror or west of line extending northward from 7N132E to 12N132E. Surface convergence near the equator is generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms well south of Koror and Yap between the equator and 2N from 133E to 140E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms south of Chuuk to west of Pohnpei within 125 miles of a line extending northeastward from 2N150E to 6N157E. A surface trough arcs northwestward from 5N170E to 11N168E. Low-level convergence near and east of the trough and divergent upper-level winds are combining to produce scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over the Marshall Islands within an area bounded by a line from 11N168E to 5N168E to 5N180 to 6N180 back to 11N168E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
1:06AM Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
6:17AM Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
1:27PM Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
8:04PM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:04AM	6:31 PM
Sunday	6:04AM	6:30 PM
Monday	6:05AM	6:29 PM
Tuesday	6:05AM	6:29 PM
Wednesday	6:05AM	6:28 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	5:13AM	6:02PM
Sunday	6:08AM	6:42PM
Monday	7:01AM	7:20PM
Tuesday	7:52AM	7:57PM
Wednesday	8:43AM	8:35PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 18, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota			
CO 9313	8:30am	9:05am	3,4,7
Saipan-Guam			
CO9317	4:00am	4:50am	Daily
CO9597	8:30am	9:20am	1,2,5,6
CO9313	8:30am	10:00am	3,4,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily
Saipan-Narita			
NW 099	5:00am	7:40am	Daily
NW 078	8:55am	2:00pm	Daily
NW 075	4:45pm	7:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Osaka			
NW 083	4:20pm	7:05pm	Daily
Saipan-Nagoya			
NW 078	8:55am	11:35am	Daily
Saipan-Seoul			
OZ 604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:50am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7
Saipan-Busan			
OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am	1,4,5,7
Guam-Manila			
CO 891	6:00am	10:30am	3 via Yap and Koror
CO 893	6:30am	8:05am	6
CO 893	8:25am	10:00am	2,7
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	5 via Koror
CO 933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7
Saipan-Guanzhou			
CZ 3008	5:00am	8:00am	2,6
Guam-Hongkong			
CO 909	6:40pm	9:25pm	1,5
Guam-Rota			
CO 9598	10:15am	10:45am	1,2,6

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan			
CO 9598	11:10am	11:45am	1,2,6
Guam-Saipan			
CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	Daily
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9598	10:15am	11:45am	1,2,6 via Rota
CO9600	10:45am	11:35am	3,4,5,7
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
Narita-Saipan			
NW 076	10:15am	2:55pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:30am+1	Daily
NW 100	8:45pm	1:25am+1	Daily
Osaka-Saipan			
NW 084	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily
Nagoya-Saipan			
NW 077	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily
Seoul-Saipan			
OZ 605	9:00am	2:30pm	2,4,6,7
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6
Busan-Saipan			
OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	3,4,6,7
Manila-Guam			
CO 894	11:20am	4:55pm	2,7
CO 894	7:45pm	1:20am+1	6
CO 892	9:45pm	6:30am+1	3 via Koror and Yap
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	5 via Koror
CO 934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:20pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7
Guanzhou-Saipan			
CZ 3007	8:00pm	4:00am+1	1,5
Hongkong-Guam			
CO 910	10:35pm	5:15am+1	1,5
Rota-Guam			
CO 9313	9:30am	10:00am	3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Sunday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $182. Off-island subscription rate is $376 per year. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

Schedule of Religious Services

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral
Sunday Mass: 6am, 9am, 11am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm

Korean Center
Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am
Monday- Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm
Saturday: 6am and 6pm

Nuestra Senora De Soledad Parish
Wednesday Mass: 6pm
First Friday Healing Mass: 6pm
Saturday Mass: 6pm
Sunday Masses: 7:30am & 9am

Saint Jude Parish
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Wednesday and Thursday: 6pm

San Antonio Parish
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Tuesday and Friday: 6pm

San Francisco de Borja-Rota
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6pm

San Isidro-Rota
Sunday: 5am and 10am
Monday-Wednesday: 7pm
Thursday-Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish
Sunday: 6am and 7:30am
Tuesday-Wednesday and Friday-Saturday: 6pm

San Roque Parish
Sunday: 9am
Wednesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10:30am

San Vicente Parish
Sunday: 6am, 9am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6pm

Santa Remedios
Sunday: 7:30am
Tuesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10am-Baptism

Santa Soledad
Sunday: 7:30am

PROTESTANT

Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan
Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan
Worship Services: Sunday, 10am and 7:30pm
Bible Study: Tuesday-Friday, 9:25pm

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan
Worship/Study Opportunities
Adult Sunday School: 9am
Youth Sunday School: 9am
English Worship Service Sunday: 10am
Sunday Service: 5:30pm
Worship/Fellowship Sunday: 9:30pm
Evangelism/Follow-up: Sunday/Monday: 1:30/7:30pm
Worship Team: Monday/Saturday-9pm;
Cell Groups Tuesday: 7:30pm
Mid-week Service: 7:30pm
Prayer Meeting Wednesday: 7:30pm
Leader's Bible Study Friday: 7:30 pm
Cornerstone School of Ministry Saturday: 7:30pm

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am
Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau,
Call 235-0545 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan
Worship Service: 9am
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: Monday-Saturday: 6am
Sunday: 7am
Home Cell Bible Study: Wednesday-Friday: 7pm
Youth Service: Friday: 5:30pm

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan
Wednesday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (English)
Saturday: 5:30am (Tagalog); 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church Koblerville
Sunday Services
9:00 AM
Place of the church-next to Mt. Carmel Cathedral on Chalan Kanoa Dr. • Tel: 322-6158
Pastor JJ Matsumoto

Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation)
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group
8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan
English Service: 9-11am, Sunday
Tagalog Service: 6-8pm, Sunday

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 8:20am
Sunday Adult: 10am
Sunday Adult: 11:30am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 10am–12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan
English Worship Service: 9-10:30am
Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm
Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am
Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm
English Sunday School: 11am-12pm
Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting:
English, 7pm-8pm
Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

Missions Connection Ministry
Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Northern Marianas Christian Church
Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided)
Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1 for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620

Saipan Bible Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30-10am
Divine Worship: 10am-11:30am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

Saipan Christian Church
Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Saipan Church of Christ
Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 6pm
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 7pm
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:30pm

Saipan Community Church
(Sunday Services)
Palau Service: 7:30am-9am
English Service: 10am-11:30am
Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm
Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan
(Saturday Church Services)
Sabbath School Program: 9-10am
Lesson Study: 10-10:40am
Divine Service: 11-12pm
Visitation: 3-4pm
Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm
Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

First Baptist Church
(Formerly Saipan Baptist Church)
Afetna St., San Antonio
Sunday
9am Sunday school
10am Regular worship
6pm worship
Wednesday
7pm worship
Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church. For further information, please call Pastor David M. Mclure at 234-1939/235-7779.

Thy Word Ministries Saipan Faith Center
Phone 234-0209
New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches.
Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi
Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi
Service Times
Sunday 10:00am Worship Service
Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes
Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies
Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer
Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice
Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service
Saturday 10:00am Evangelism

Upper Room International Ministries
Sunday 5:30am-6:30am
Morning prayer
7am-9am English service
7am-9am Sunday school
10am-12noon English service, Koblerville
Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting
Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service
Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church
Gualo Rai, Saipan

Victory Chapel Christian Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday AM Worship:10:30am
Sunday PM Worship:7:00am
Wed Worship: 7:30pm
Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times
Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S

Flashback
A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

August 30, 1999

Gov't saved $19 million in professional services
Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio's administration has cut government expenditures by over $19 million in the last two years, which it credited to austerity measures implemented to boost savings and help ease financial difficulties confronting the Northern Marianas. These savings were a result of the decision by the administration to bring down costs of the professional service contracts from a high of some $28 million during the last year of the previous government to about $8.65 million in 1999.

Tinian Shipping ferries seized
Ferry service between Tinian and Saipan has been temporarily suspended after the Federal Court ordered the seizure of two vessels owned by Tinian Shipping & Transportation Inc. due to the latter's failure to settle its loan to Debis Financial Services Inc. According to Anthony Ha, spokesperson of TSTI, the company will appeal the decision handed down by the court, and "will fight it until the end."

Mandatory health insurance opposed
A proposed law requiring employers to provide health benefits to both their foreign and resident workers may prove to be a bane rather than boon to local businesses, according to papers submitted to the Senate Committee on Health, Education and Welfare. Representatives from the private sector instead called on lawmakers to further study repercussions of such a measure, noting that it would only drive business owners to bankruptcy in view of the present economic conditions on the island.

August 30, 2000

Teno OKs lease-to-own scheme
First-time homebuyers unable to obtain financing now have a bigger chance of owning their dream house after the government has approved recently a lease-to-own program aimed at assisting low-income families. Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio signed last week Public Law 12-15 or the Lease-to-Own Housing Program Act to pave the way for implementation of such a scheme on the islands amid stumbling blocks encountered by many families in trying to build their own homes.

House cautioned against housing allowance
Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio has asked the House Committee on Judicial and Governmental Operations not to endorse a proposed measure eliminating the housing allowance for off-island hires in fear that it will adversely affect the delivery of basic services. In a letter to Rep. Dino Jones, chair of the committee, the governor said members of the committee should seriously study the consequences of such proposal. "Until the Commonwealth educates and retains sufficient numbers of local citizens to fill the positions currently requiring outside recruitment, we must continue to (provide housing) to be able to attract and retain such employees from outside," Mr. Tenorio said.

Tougher fines vs. business without license disapproved
Citing its potential unconstitutionality, Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio has disapproved legislation seeking tougher penalties against businesses operating without a government license. The proposed $50,000 fine and imprisonment of up to five years as punishment for not having the license is disproportionate to the offense and therefore appears to be unconstitutional, he said in vetoing HB 12-45.

August 30, 2001

Retirement Fund's Torres fired
The Board of Trustees of the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund on Tuesday sacked Fund Administrator Juan S. Torres, saying it has become necessary. According to the Fund's legal counsel, Kathleen Troy-Rucker, the board decided to fire Torres during Tuesday's board meeting, to pave the way for some changes at the Fund.

China airline flies direct to CNMI
A Chinese incentive group will be flying in today directly from Guangzhou City in China, aboard a China Southern Airline flight-the first time that the airline will land its plane in the Northern Mariana Islands. The Chinese group, organized by Rowa Air-Con Marketing Company Limited, chartered a China Southern Airline flight from Guangzhou and will be arriving today at 3:30 a.m. They will be directly taken to the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino, which is hosting the group.

Business

Economic rebound is not likely to last

WASHINGTON (AP)—The economy pulled out of a dangerous rough patch in the spring, thanks largely to strong exports, but the rebound isn't expected to last. Economic slowdowns overseas could make exports tail off just as Americans are hunkering down after the bracing impact of rebate checks wanes, plunging the country into another rut later this year.

"There will be heavy sledding for the U.S. economy during the next couple of quarters," predicted Lynn Reaser, chief economist at Bank of America's Investment Strategies Group.

Gross domestic product, or GDP, grew at a 3.3 percent annual rate in the April-June quarter, its fastest pace in nearly a year, the Commerce Department reported Thursday. The revised reading was much better than the government's initial estimate of a 1.9 percent pace and exceeded economists' expectations for a 2.7 percent growth rate.

The rebound followed two dismal quarters. The economy actually shrank in the final three months of 2007 and barely budged in the first quarter at a minuscule 0.9 percent pace. The 3.3 percent growth in the spring was the best performance since the third quarter of last year, when the economy was chugging along at a brisk 4.8 percent pace.

White House press secretary Dana Perino said the numbers demonstrated the economy's resilience in the face of many challenges. But she added: "No one is doing a victory dance."

CDC says salmonella outbreak seems over

WASHINGTON (AP)—The government said Thursday that the salmonella outbreak that sickened at least 1,440 people appears to be over, but its ultimate source may never be known, partly because of shortcomings in the nation's food safety system.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Food and Drug Administration said they found strong evidence to implicate jalapeno and serrano peppers, and a farm in Mexico, in the largest outbreak of foodborne illness in a decade. Investigators were unable to clear domestic and imported tomatoes, however, although the evidence against tomatoes is weaker.

The FDA also lifted its warning that consumers avoid eating jalapeno and serrano peppers from Mexico. But officials pointedly said that doesn't guarantee another such outbreak can be prevented. "None of us can provide a cast-iron guarantee that salmonella Saintpaul will not re-emerge," said Dr. David Acheson, the FDA's food safety chief. "We have not identified the total source of this."

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Jewelers look abroad to boost sales as US slows
NEW YORK (AP)—Rising sales in Asia and Europe boosted Tiffany & Co.'s second-quarter profit on Thursday, signaling that strong international demand for jewelry is helping offset U.S. economic weakness. Fellow jeweler Zale Corp. posted a loss for its fiscal fourth quarter but forecast 2009 profit above Wall Street expectations and noted significant growth opportunities in Canada. The softening domestic economy, which has crimped discretionary spending for many Americans, has jewelers focusing on international efforts to offset sluggish sales in the U.S.

Gustav likely to push up gas prices for Labor Day
NEW YORK (AP)—Drivers might want to top off their tanks early before hitting the road for Labor Day weekend. Consumers will likely face higher prices at the pump during the busy holiday period as Tropical Storm Gustav swirls toward the Gulf of Mexico on a path that could disrupt energy production. Any damage to oil and gas facilities could send retail gas prices spiking back above $4 a gallon. Fears about the storm pushed crude oil above $120 a barrel Thursday, but prices later fell into negative territory as traders bet the government will tap the Strategic Petroleum Reserve if supplies are threatened.

Sears' 2Q profit drops 62 percent
CHICAGO (AP)—Beleaguered retailer Sears Holdings Corp. reported a hefty drop in second-quarter profit as sales slumped, despite a restructuring aimed at drawing back shoppers who've taken their checkbooks elsewhere. The company led by financier Edward Lampert also delivered a downbeat outlook, predicting sales and gross profit margins will feel continued pressure from the sluggish economy. Sears said it earned $65 million, or 50 cents per share, in the three months ended Aug. 2. That's down 62 percent from a year-ago profit of $173 million, or $1.15 per share. Revenue fell to $11.76 billion from $12.26 billion a year earlier.

Nation

Obama tells huge Dem crowd he'll fix Washington

DENVER (AP)—Surrounded by an enormous, adoring crowd, Barack Obama promised a clean break from the "broken politics in Washington and the failed policies of George W. Bush" Thursday night as he embarked on the final lap of his audacious bid to become the nation's first black president.

"America, now is not the time for small plans," the 47-year-old Democratic Illinois senator told an estimated 84,000 people packed into Invesco Field, a huge football stadium at the base of the Rocky Mountains.

He vowed to cut taxes for nearly all working-class families, end the war in Iraq and break America's dependence on Mideast oil within a decade. By contrast, he said, "John McCain has voted with President Bush 90 percent of the time," a scathing indictment of his Republican rival—on health care, education, the economy and more.

Polls indicate a close race between Obama and McCain, the Arizona senator who stands between him and a place in history. On a night 45 years after Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his "I have a Dream Speech," Obama made no overt mention of his own race.

"I realize that I am not the likeliest candidate for this office. I don't fit the typical pedigree" of a presidential candidate was as close as he came to the long-smoldering issue that may well determine the outcome of the election. Fireworks lit the night sky as Obama, his speech concluded, accepted the cheers of supporters. His wife, Michelle, and their daughters Malia and Sasha joined him as the country music anthem "Only in America" filled the stadium. Vice presidential running mate Joseph Biden and his wife, Jill, joined them onstage.

Depicted by McCain as too young and inexperienced to sit in the Oval Office, Obama responded with an oblique reference to his rival's temper.

"If John McCain wants to have a debate about who has the temperament, and judgment, to serve as the next commander in chief, that's a debate I'm ready to have," he said.

Campaigning as an advocate of a new kind of politics, he suggested at least some common ground was possible on abortion, gun control, immigration and gay marriage.

Obama delivered his 44-minute nomination acceptance speech in an unrivaled convention setting, before a crowd of unrivaled size—the filled stadium, the camera flashes in the night, the made-for-television backdrop that suggested the White House, and the thousands of convention delegates seated around the podium in an enormous semicircle.

AP

Democratic presidential candidate, Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., right waves to the crowd as he is joined by his family, from left, his wife Michelle, Malia, 10, and Sasha, 7, at the end of his speech at the Democratic National Convention at Invesco Field in Denver, Thursday, Aug. 28, 2008.

More than 84,000 attend Obama speech

DENVER (AP)—More than 84,000 people have jammed into Invesco Field at Mile High stadium to hear Barack Obama's historic acceptance speech, city officials say.

Nancy Kuhn of Denver's public works department says the figure is based on the number of credentials that were scanned as delegates, individuals and news media entered the football stadium where Obama was accepting the Democratic presidential nomination Thursday night.

The stadium normally holds 76,125 people, but additional seats were placed on the football field where the Denver Broncos play.

Walkway collapses in San Diego, injuring 16

SAN DIEGO (AP)—A block-long covered walkway next to a construction scaffold collapsed on Thursday, trapping and injuring 16 pedestrians, three critically.

About 25 people were on the walkway when its wooden walls and roof fell in, authorities said. Some scaffolding along the 3-story building also fell.

"The walls started moving, then the bang. Everything started coming down. Everyone started screaming," said Abigail Reckermann, 50, who went to the hospital with a swollen ankle.

Ariel Medina, 34, was uninjured but saw a board fall onto the back of a man she was talking with.

"It was a living nightmare," Medina said. "The whole thing just caved in. People were trapped."

AP

A paramedic applies a bandage to a pedestrian injured when a construction site covered walkway collapsed in downtown San Diego Thursday Aug. 28, 2008.

Three people suffered life-threatening injuries, including head trauma, when they were hit by falling debris, authorities said.

Father Joe Carroll, president of St. Vincent de Paul Village, said many of the injured had just eaten lunch or were living at the homeless shelter he runs across the street. The shelter had served lunch to about 1,000 people.

Carroll said his staff recognized some of the shelter clients as they sat on a nearby curb with neck braces. Others were bleeding lightly as they waited for an ambulance.

"They either had a meal here or live here and were walking to the trolley," he said.

ACROSS THE NATION

Defense contractor accused of human trafficking

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The families of 12 Nepali men killed by Iraqi insurgents have filed a federal lawsuit accusing defense contractor KBR Inc. and a Jordanian subcontractor of human trafficking, saying the men were sent to work in Iraq against their will after being promised jobs in a posh hotel in Jordan. The lawsuit filed Wednesday in U.S. District Court alleges the workers were being taken to work at a U.S. air base in Iraq in 2004 when insurgents intercepted their caravan and killed them days later. A Nepali worker whose car survived the attack is also a plaintiff; Buddi Prasad Gurung, now back in Nepal, claims he was forced to work at Al Asad Air Base as a warehouse loader for 15 months.

Detroit mayor's lawyer says she's losing witnesses

DETROIT (AP)—Three lawyers are refusing to testify next week at a removal hearing for Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick, possibly harming his ability to defend himself, the mayor's attorney says. Sharon McPhail, in a letter dated Wednesday, urged Gov. Jennifer Granholm to seek subpoena power, delay the hearing or press the witnesses to appear. Her client's political life is threatened not only by the hearing, but by felony charges that he lied under oath about an affair and assaulted investigators. McPhail said she received a letter stating that lawyers Sam McCargo and Wilson Copeland are refusing to appear. A third attorney, John Johnson, also does not plan to appear.

Jury acquits former Marine in killing of Iraqis

RIVERSIDE, Calif. (AP)—A former Marine accused of killing unarmed Iraqi detainees was acquitted of voluntary manslaughter Thursday in a first-of-its-kind federal trial. The jury took six hours to find Jose Luis Nazario Jr. not guilty of charges that he killed or caused others to kill four unarmed detainees on Nov. 9, 2004, in Fallujah, Iraq, during some of the fiercest fighting of the war. The verdict left the 28-year-old defendant in tears. He cried so loud that the judge smacked his gavel to call for order. Nazario's family and friends also sobbed in the courtroom.

2 workers hurt when crane topples in Dallas

DALLAS (AP)—A crane lowering a heavy length of pipe toppled Thursday morning at a city water pumping station on the Trinity River in Dallas, injuring two city workers. A contract crew was trying to lower the more than 9-ton pipe through an opening on the pump station roof when it pulled the crane cab off the ground, said Dallas Fire Rescue spokeswoman Sherrie Lopez. The boom of the crane fell onto the roof and the pipe landed on two city vehicles, crushing their roofs. The crane's cab tilted at a 45-degree angle.

Iowa college president steps down after beer photo

FORT DODGE, Iowa (AP)—An Iowa community college president resigned less than a week after a photo was published appearing to show him pouring beer into a young woman's mouth. The school's board of trustees on Thursday unanimously approved Robert Paxton's resignation. It also approved a severance package that officials said was valued at about $400,000. Mark Crimmins, the president of the board, said although the incident happened in Paxton's private life, "it reflected poorly on the college." The photo, which was published Saturday in The Des Moines Register, shows Paxton with a group of young people on a boat. He is holding a small keg above a young woman's head. The Register said the photo was taken over the Fourth of July weekend at Lake Okoboji and sent to the paper unsolicited.

New Katrina death tally: Half of victims 75 and up

CHICAGO (AP)—As New Orleans residents warily track another threatening storm, a new report presents the clearest picture yet of deaths from Katrina in Louisiana. Of the nearly 1,000 who died, almost half were 75 or older, according to researchers. Most died on the day of the storm—August 29, 2005—and drowning was the leading cause of death. More than one-third died in homes. The high death toll in the elderly was likely due to those factors along with older people being more vulnerable and frail and unable to fight the catastrophic storm, the report said. The study was published online Thursday and will appear in the October print edition of the journal Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness.

Asia

Pakistani bus bombing kills 8

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)—A surge of violence continued unabated in Pakistan's tribal border region Thursday, with a car bomb blasting a bus filled with Pakistani police and government workers off a bridge and killing eight people aboard.

More than 200 people have died in Taliban bombings and clashes since longtime U.S. ally Pervez Musharraf quit as president and triggered a power struggle that caused the country's ruling coalition to collapse.

U.S. officials have been pressing for more action against insurgent strongholds in Pakistan's wild border region.

Pakistan's military insists it is doing what it can to contain militants and prevent them from moving against NATO and Afghan troops on the other side of the Afghan-Pakistan border.

Pakistan's army chief secretly met the chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, and other top American commanders Tuesday on the aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln in the Indian Ocean to talk about what else could be done. The meeting was the latest of several between Adm. Mike Mullen and General Ashfaq Kayani.

A U.S. official familiar with the discussion said the meeting was "more collaborative," compared to a similar one a month ago when Mullen took a "more firm tone" in warning Kayani that Islamabad was not doing enough to counter militants.

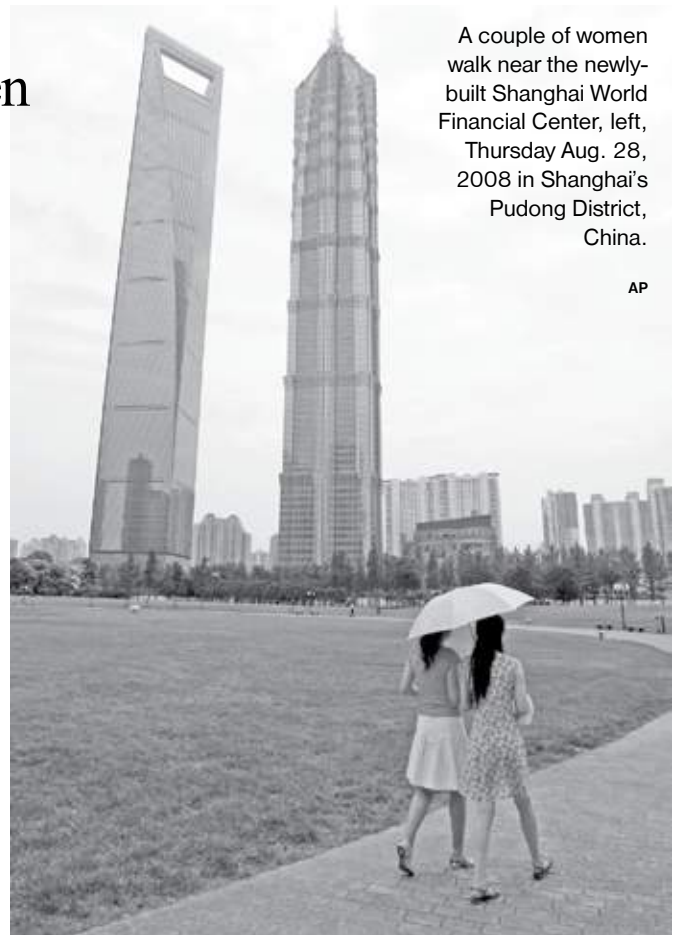
China's tallest building to open in Shanghai

SHANGHAI, China (AP)—China's tallest building, the 101-story Shanghai World Financial Center, will open to the public on Saturday, 14 years after its developer began the project.

Japanese property tycoon Minoru Mori expressed relief Thursday at having finally finished the project after years of stop-and-go progress on what he says is the building with the world's highest rooftop, at 1,614 feet, and its highest observation deck.

From the top floor observation deck, where transparent patches of flooring allow visitors a dizzying look to ground level, the view of Shanghai is sweeping and spectacular.

The silver spire of the 1,381-foot Jinmao Tower next door, formerly the city's tallest building, lies far below.



A couple of women walk near the newly-built Shanghai World Financial Center, left, Thursday Aug. 28, 2008 in Shanghai's Pudong District, China.

AP

ASIAN BRIEFS

Thai protesters push police off compound

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP)—Thai anti-government protesters occupying the grounds of the prime minister's office forced several hundred policemen off the compound early Friday and promised more action in their bid to oust the leader. Police exercised restraint when the demonstrators—some armed with golf clubs, batons and bamboo sticks—pushed up to 400 officers out of the Government House grounds at about 1 a.m. Thousands of supporters of the conservative People's Alliance for Democracy spent a third night encamped at Government House in support of their campaign to force Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej from office.

Probe reveals oxygen bottle burst on Qantas flight

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—An oxygen tank exploded and blew a car-sized hole in a Qantas jet last month, air safety officials said Friday, but investigators appear to be no closer to figuring out why. The release of the interim report by Julian Walsh, acting executive director of the Australian Transport Safety Bureau, confirmed earlier suspicions by investigators that the tank was the cause. He said the investigation will likely continue for months. The Boeing 747-438 aircraft, carrying 365 people, was flying over the South China Sea July 25 when the explosion blew a hole in the fuselage 79 inches wide and 60 inches high, the report said.

2 Chinese policemen killed, 7 wounded in Xinjiang

BEIJING (AP)—Chinese police clashed with members of the Muslim Uighur ethnic minority in the far western region of Xinjiang, authorities and an activist said Thursday, the first reported outbreak of violence in the area since two high-profile attacks during the Olympics. Two Chinese policemen died and seven more were wounded. It was not immediately clear what ignited Wednesday's conflict in a village in Jiashi County or if any Uighurs were injured.

Dalai Lama admitted to hospital in India for tests

MUMBAI, India (AP)—The Dalai Lama was admitted to a hospital in this western Indian city on Thursday to undergo tests for abdominal discomfort, his spokesman said "Since tests haven't begun yet, we don't know what the ailment is," Tenzin Takla told The Associated Press. "Medical tests will begin on Friday." The Dalai Lama's office in Dharmsala said Wednesday that the 73-year-old Tibetan spiritual leader was suffering from exhaustion and would cancel two planned international trips. On Thursday, Takla said he was "admitted to hospital because of some abdominal discomfort." The spokesman for Mumbai's Lilavati Hospital suggested the visit was an unscheduled one.

World

Putin: US orchestrated the conflict in Georgia

MOSCOW (AP)—Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin accused the United States on Thursday of pushing Georgia toward war and said he suspects a connection to the U.S. presidential campaign—a contention the White House dismissed as "patently false."

In another sign of unraveling Russia-U.S. ties, Putin said that 19 U.S. poultry producers will be barred from exporting their products to Russia.

Putin, the former president and architect of an assertive foreign policy that stoked East-West tension even before Russia's war with the U.S.-allied ex-Soviet republic, suggested in an interview with CNN that there was an American presence amid the combat with a potential domestic U.S. political motive.

Putin

"We have serious grounds to think that there were U.S. citizens right in the combat zone," he said the interview broadcast on state-run Russian television. "And if that's so, if that is confirmed, it's very bad. It's very dangerous."

Putin's acid attack on the United States came as Moscow's bid to redraw Georgia's borders hit an obstacle among its Asian allies. France, meanwhile, said the European Union is considering sanctions against Russia for its conduct in the Caucasus

Senior Iraqi official suspected of militia links

BAGHDAD (AP)—A senior official in Nouri al-Maliki's government was in custody Thursday suspected of ties to Iranian-backed Shiite militias and plotting a June bombing that killed 10 people, including four Americans, Iraqi authorities said.

The arrest of Ali al-Lami—taken Wednesday as he left a plane arriving from Lebanon—reinforced suspicions about Tehran's influence within the Shiite-led Iraqi government and could open wider probes into Shiite networks, including possible links to Lebanon's Hezbollah.

Al-Lami heads a commission responsible for keeping Saddam Hussein loyalists out of government posts and has been a target of criticism from Sunni leaders who claim the government wants to limit the overall Sunni voice in political and security issues. He was arrested by U.S. and Iraqi troops at Baghdad's airport as he returned with his family from medical treatment in Beirut, said a member of his committee, Qaiser Watout.

U.S. and Iraqi troops were waiting for al-Lami as the plane's doors opened, Watout said

"We condemn this act," Watout said. "Al-Lami was a moderate official and we are surprised by his arrest."

Tourists, residents flee as Gustav swamps Jamaica

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP)—Residents, tourists and oil workers fled as Gustav swamped Jamaica on Thursday, leaving 59 people dead in its wake. Louisiana and Texas put their national guards on standby, and New Orleans said a mandatory evacuation might be necessary.

At least 51 people died in Haiti from floods, mudslides and falling trees, including 25 around the city of Jacmel, where Gustav first struck land Tuesday. Eight more people were buried when a cliff gave way in the Dominican Republic. Marcelina Feliz died clutching her 11-month-old baby, and five more children were smothered in the wreckage beside her. On Thursday afternoon, Gustav's center was 15 miles (25 kms) east-northeast of Kingston, Jamaica's low-lying capital. Forecasters said it could grow to a hurricane before slamming into Grand Cayman on Friday night.

AP

A truck is trapped in mud caused by heavy rain brought by Tropical Storm Gustav in Fond Parisien village in Haiti, Thursday, Aug. 28, 2008.

Mexican Supreme Court upholds legal abortion

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Mexico's Supreme Court upheld the capital's abortion law Thursday, setting a precedent for the rest of the country that could inspire other Latin American cities.

Mexico City is one of the few places in Latin America that allows abortion without limitations in the first trimester, although abortion rights groups complain most doctors still refuse to do the procedure.

Within minutes of the 8-3 vote in favor of the law, abortion rights groups were thinking of ways to expand the decision to other parts of Mexico and even Latin America, where abortion is virtually unheard of.

"It opens the road for all of Latin America to start visualizing legal paths to abortion," said Raffaella Schiavon, who directs the international abortion rights group Ipas and has been advising the city government.

Mexico City officials said they were preparing to help other local governments in the region interested in approving similar laws.

Maharlika–Pinoy News

Informal remittances sink to seven-year low

By JEREMAIAH M. OPINIANO
WWW.OFWJOURNALISM.NET

MANILA—*Padala*, or the money brought home by vacationing overseas Filipinos here, is on its seven-year low, based on data from the Philippines's central bank.

Migration and remittances experts call these cash—$506 million in 2007—as "informal remittances." This includes money that did not pass through "formal" banking channels.

Usually, informal remittances are sent through door-to-door companies, in particular those without partner banks, and courier services. Increasingly, some Filipino-run money transfer organizations with door-to-door services have partnered with commercial banks.

That 2007 figure was the lowest since the BSP, following the fifth edition of the Balance of Payments manual of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), started computing the amount of informal remittances in 2001 when the total volume was $1.69 billion.

But the diminished volumes of informal remittances have been evident since 2004. From $1.71 billion that year, informal remittances went down to $1.603 billion in 2005, and $1.276 billion in 2006 (see Table 1).

The Bangko Sentral's multiple-year data showed that the 2007 total of formal and informal cash remittances from overseas Filipinos was $14.956 billion, broken down into $14.45 billion of formal remittances and the $506 million of informal remittances.

That combined total is a seven-year high as well, as informal remittances make up 3.38 percent of the 2007 total.

That 2007 percentage of informal remittances to the total cash remittances is also the lowest. In 2001, when the combined formal and informal cash remittances reached $7.721 billion, the $1.690 billion of informal remittances made up 21.83 percent.

From 2002 to 2007, the percentage share of informal remittances to the combined total remittances dropped further (see Table 1).

The seven-year total informal remittances of $10.02 billion makes up 13.01 percent of that same period's total formal and informal remittances, worth $76.967 billion.

In 2005, when the BSP started adopting the BOP 5 Manual of the IMF, informal remittances showed it "mitigated the downward effect of adjustment in goods imports".

Using that same BOP 5 manual, Bangko Sentral data (see http://www.bsp.gov.ph/statistics/sdds/boprevs/imp99-07.htm) showed that total imports also had a seven-year high with $57.527 billion (from $43.827 billion in 2000).

Director Iluminada Sicat told the OFW Journalism Consortium in 2005 that BSP estimates the volume of informal remittances every time the National Statistics Office comes up with the results of the annual Survey on Overseas Filipinos so that it may determine "an under-coverage ratio" to determine the volume of these informal flows.

Indications

Melinda dela Cruz, a migrant worker in Paris, France, told the OFW Journalism Consortium newer remittance channels run by Filipino banks and financial institutions in the last five years has made remitting easier.

Now a supervisor at a Paris shopping mall, Melinda has been in Paris for 28 years.

She recently came home for a short vacation.

Undocumented Filipinos in that city usually send money through informal channels because to their irregular status. France alone is home to some 39,000 undocumented or irregular Filipinos, the largest in Europe, says 2007 Philippine government data.

But the country has no restrictions for undocumented migrants wishing to send money home, says Filipina Lea Munnecom, who handles the outlet of Bank of the Philippine Islands and correspondent French bank Banque d'Escompte that serves some 1,000 Filipino customers monthly.

And since Filipinos in host countries like France have started queuing to new remittance companies that have partner banks in the Philippines and in the host country, Filipinos in France, says another set of data from the BSP, have remitted an eight-year-high of $54.48 million in 2007 (from $15.42 million in 2000).

Banco de Oro, BPI, Philippine National Bank (which just re-opened in 2006), Allied Bank, and Metrobank are the Philippine banks that serve Filipinos in Paris.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ISLAND VISITOR

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Finance Secretary Inos flank Dr. Dante A. Ang, a businessman and ranking Cabinet member of Philippine President Gloria Macapal-Arroyo, at the Hyatt Regency Saipan. Ang met with the Filipino community during his short visit to the islands this week and has promised to return.

Filipino teachers continue to fly to US for higher pay

By CYNTHIA BALANA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—More and more competent Filipino teachers are flocking to the United States where they are paid more, according to the Philippine Embassy in Washington.

The embassy, in a statement, said that only last week, 93 Filipino teachers arrived in the US and were welcomed by Philippine Ambassador to Washington Willy Gaa.

The new arrivals attended orientation seminars organized by the embassy where they were also given "practical advice" to ease their transition into a new teaching environment.

The 93 teachers will be teaching special education classes, focusing on Mathematics, Science and English subjects in public schools in Prince George's County in Maryland.

Gaa said the new recruits followed a group of 115 teachers who were also welcomed by the embassy last July.

The first batch of Filipino teachers moved to Maryland in 2005. As of the fall of 2006, 400 Filipino teachers were already in Baltimore City alone.

A growing number of experienced Filipino teachers are finding teaching jobs in all corners of the world.

Data from the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration show that Filipino teachers leave to teach in countries of Africa, Europe, Asia and on the islands of South Pacific. They also go to oil-rich countries such as Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Brunei.

An average of 73 Filipino teachers per year have gone to teach in the US from 1992 to 1999. From 2000 to 2004, the number more than doubled to 221 teachers per year. They now comprise some of the more than 10,000 foreign teachers being recruited annually to fill the US' gaping demand for teachers especially in crucial subjects such as special education, math and science.

LABOR FRONT

Initiating a Labor investigation

By FERDIE P. DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Q: How does the Department of Labor conduct an investigation into an alien worker's complaint against his or her employer?

A: A Labor administrative hearing officer may refer a complaint to the Labor director for investigation. According to the new Alien Labor Rules and Regulations, the Labor director or a designee may also initiate such investigation of the complaint as appears warranted by the allegations, other information provided, and past complaints filed by the complainant or violations adjudicated against the respondent.

■ ■ ■

Q. How does Labor investigators gather information in response to a worker's complaint?

A: Labor investigators may conduct interviews of the parties and others. Investigators may also request documents from the parties, and inspect worksites and living quarters. Investigators may also undertake other investigative actions when warranted.

The Regulations state that any non-privileged information gathered during an investigation shall be made available to the parties on request. Investigators may make such written report of the investigation as may be useful, but no written determination is required.

■ ■ ■

Q: Can an employer request for the disqualification of a Labor investigator from handling a worker's complaint?

A: Yes. An investigator may voluntarily enter a recusal if his or her impartiality might be questioned. A party in a case may request the recusal of an investigator. The Regulations provide that such request must be in writing and supported by a sworn affidavit. The Labor director will decide the request based only on the written affidavit.

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Magsaysay Awards honor seven Asian 'pathfinders'

By EDSON C. TANDOC JR.
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—To mark its 50th anniversary, the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation will be honoring people who have brought power back to their people by using new solutions in a changing environment.

In giving artificial legs to amputees, providing capital to poor women, providing free psychological services to disaster and war victims, and giving back political choice to voters, the awardees this year have become "pathfinders in a changing Asia," said RMAF president Carmencita Abella who presented the awardees Thursday.

Isabela Gov. Grace Padaca, the awardee for government service, brought back to her constituents the power of choice in bringing down a 40-year political dynasty.

Surgeon Therdchai Jivacate, the awardee for public service, not only gave free artificial legs to 16,000 amputees in Thailand. He also gave them back their self-respect.

Prakash Amte, whose father was also an awardee in 1985, and his wife Mandakini, awardees for community leadership, helped a remote community in India adapt with the changing times, not only by helping build basic services like a school and a hospital, but also by bringing back the culture of trust and compassion.

Ahmad Syafii Maarif, awardee for peace and international understanding, guided the Muslims of Indonesia back to tolerance and harmony.

Akio Ishii, awardee for journalism, literature and creative communication arts, brought human rights and other relevant issues back into public consciousness through his writings in Japan.

Ananda Galapatti, awardee for emergent leadership, helped Sri Lankans cope with the trauma of disasters and wars, especially during the tsunami in 2004.

Nobel Prize of Asia

The Center for Agriculture and Rural Development Mutually Reinforcing Institutions of the Philippines, the awardee for public service, brought back dignity to 711,000 poor women across the country by helping them start small businesses through micro loans.

Supported by the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, the Ramon Magsaysay Awards was established in honor of President Ramon Magsaysay who was killed in a plane crash in 1957. It is given annually and is considered to be the Asian counterpart of the Nobel Prize.

Philippine economy Q2 growth slows down

By TERESA CEROJANO
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine government blamed high world oil prices and inflation for disappointing second-quarter growth, the lowest in three years, but the president's spokesman Friday ruled out any major policy changes.

Gross domestic product growth in the April-June quarter slowed to 4.6 percent from 8.3 percent in the same period last year.

The government on Thursday also revised first-quarter growth to 4.7 percent from an earlier 5.2 percent, and Socio-economic Planning Secretary Ralph Rector said achieving the full year target of 5.5 percent "will be a tough challenge as we continue to face high food and oil prices."

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's spokesman, Jesus Dureza, rejected suggestions the government should adjust its economic policies, saying Arroyo is confident the economy will be back on track once world oil prices stabilize.

"When international factors improve, we can go back to our earlier projections," Dureza said.

The government projected inflation in August would hit between 12.1 percent and 12.7 percent, driven by a rise in fuel and food prices.

Central bank Gov. Amando Tetangco said Thursday that the monetary board raised its key interest rates by 25 basis points to combat inflation, which hit a 17-year high of 12.2 percent in July.

Overall economic growth—the slowest since 4.4 percent in the first quarter of 2005—was clipped by an 18.5 percent contraction in the mining and quarrying sector, as well as sluggishness in services, the linchpin of the economy with a 49.2 percent share of total GDP.

Former Budget Secretary Benjamin Diokno on Friday warned the slowdown may persist until next year, and forecast the full-year growth of only 4.5 percent to 5 percent. He also said an unchecked population growth of 2.3 percent a year was weighing down on the economy.

Malaysia extends its RP peacekeeping mission

PUTRAJAYA, Malaysia (AP)—Malaysia said Thursday it will keep its peacekeepers in the southern Philippines for another three months to monitor a fragile truce between Muslim rebels and government forces.

The announcement comes in the wake of a recent outbreak of violence between Philippine security forces and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front that has killed at least 47 civilians and displaced more than 360,000, according to the government.

Malaysia has acceded to a request by the Philippine government to extend the peacekeepers' mandate, Foreign Minister Rais Yatim told reporters.

"A three-month period would be a reasonable extent of time for us to play that role to bring together the .... (peace) process," he said. "We are concerned about the continuing violence and this is the first segment of our address so that violence should stop."

Malaysia began withdrawing its 40 peacekeepers in stages in April from the violence-scarred Mindanao island because of frustrations over the slow pace of talks between Manila and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

But the decision was reversed earlier this month and Malaysia said it will maintain at least 12 peacekeepers. Their mandate was to expire on Aug. 31, but with the latest extension, they are expected to remain until Nov. 30.

Malaysia's decision follows the visit this week of Manila's chief negotiator in the peace talks, Rodolfo Garcia, and his rebel counterpart, Mohagher Iqbal.

Malaysia's frustrations intensified after a preliminary accord granting minority Muslims in the Philippines an expanded homeland was blocked by the Philippine Supreme Court earlier this month.

The court issued a temporary restraining order to delay the signing of the accord after Christian politicians objected to the deal because the Philippine government failed to publicly disclose its contents.

A Malaysian Foreign Ministry statement said the government agreed to the three-month extension "in order to give space for both sides to resolve" their dispute in Supreme court.

But Muslim rebels recently triggered clashes with government troops after raiding several towns and killing dozens of people. The government responded by saying it would no longer sign the accord.

Suicide? OFW's family doubts it

By VERONICA UY
INQUIRER.NET

MANILA, Philippines—Evelyn Milo, 24, a saleslady in Abu Dhabi, came home in a box 14 days after she "jumped off" a building August 9, making her the eight Filipino worker to have "committed suicide" in the most populous city in the United Arab Emirates since January.

Her recruitment agency, Bright International Manpower, phoned her kin in the Philippines August 9, informing them about her death.

But did she really take her own life? Milo's family doesn't think so.

Milo's remains arrived in Manila on August 19. Anita Milo-Macalintal, Milo's aunt who raised her, said Milo's body bore strangulation marks on her neck, and stab wounds on her chest and legs.

"Her mouth seemed punched in and her genitalia were swollen," Macalintal said.

Senate Majority Leader Francis "Kiko" Pangilinan has called on the Department of Foreign Affairs "to determine whether there was foul play" in Milo's death.

"Our authorities need to intervene immediately and ensure that this is not another case of foul play against our OFWs," Pangilinan said Wednesday.

Her family is crying for justice.

"We want justice," Milo's mother Thelma said, wailing.

She said the Bright International Manpower did not help them. "The agency simply gave us P300 and told us to fetch her body at the airport," Thelma said in Filipino.

Senate President Manuel Villar, who shouldered Milo's burial expenses, echoed the family's call for justice.

"Now that we have repatriated the body and will soon have it buried, what happens tojustice? We have not reached that and we admit that our capacity is still not enough but we cannot stop. Many of our countrymen are really short-changed and need justice," he said.

Villar said he was just waiting for the result of the autopsy conducted by the National Bureau of Investigation.

PHILIPPINE BRIEFS

Miriam's aunt found stabbed dead in Iloilo City residence

ILOILO CITY—A 74-year-old aunt of Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago was found stabbed dead in her residence here Thursday morning. Adelina Palma-Bermejo, a sister of the senator's mother, Dimpna, was found by Rose Cinco, another sister of the victim, with a knife still stuck in her back around 11 a.m. in her residence in Kahirup Subdivision, Barangay Tabuc Suba, Jaro district here, Western Visayas police director Chief Supt. Isagani Cuevas said in a telephone interview. Bermejo was pronounced dead on arrival at a hospital. She was found in a corner of the house. Cuevas said police have no identity of the suspect or a motive for the crime. He said the weapon used in the killing was a kitchen knife from the household. ***(PDI)***

NSO: 10.6M in Mindanao have no records of birth

DAVAO CITY—A big number of unregistered Filipinos, or those who have no birth certificates comes from Mindanao, an official of the National Statistics Office said Thursday. Carmelita Ericta, NSO administrator, said 10.62 million people from Mindanao, or 12 percent of the 88.57 million people included in the 2007 population census were not registered with local civil registrars. Ericta said a big percentage of these unregistered individuals come from the indigenous peoples groups and Moro tribes. She said aside from them, there are also children – including street children – who do not have a sense of identity. She said many of these children are found in Davao City. ***(PDI)***

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Maharlika–PinoyStyle

PERSONAL FINANCE

Teach your tweens about money

Editor's Note: This is part of Take Charge of Your Money, a partnership between INQUIRER.net and Citibank to help readers handle their personal finances well.

Question: I have two kids ages 8 and 9. Because times are hard, I'd like to instill in them the right attitude toward money. It is my hope that they will grow up financially responsible. How can I teach them well? — Marissa

Answer: It is never too early to teach children how to handle money. The "tween" years, those years sandwiched between the preschool and teenage years, are a very good time to start teaching kids the right values. Parents should do it not just because times are hard. In good times and bad, being financially independent can be a big boon.

In the primary grade school years now (and even in preschool, in some schools), children are already taught money lessons. They are introduced to the denominations of bills and coins circulating, and are given opportunities to "transact" with play money in the classroom. With play money, math lessons in addition and subtraction are applied, and children learn what happens when they "buy" something with their play money — the amount of money on their hands decreases, but they gain something tangible in return.

Given this situation, money may not be that abstract a concept to tweens. Do not think that children will not be able to handle money responsibly at this age. While talk of credit cards may not be warranted yet at this time, you can discuss being responsible for paying for goods and services contracted, for saving for one's future, for giving to others, and for spending well.

Here are tips in teaching your tweens about money:

1. Agree with your husband on what to teach. If both of you believe that saving is important, then this is a key lesson to teach the kids. Commit to talk to your kids about it, whether separately or together.

2. Give your kids a daily allowance. Having money in their own hands will help kids learn and apply money lessons well. If you are sending them off to school in the morning with food from home for recess and lunch, give a little amount of money they can spend (or save) as they please.

3. Talk to your kids about budgeting their allowance. There are three things kids can do with allowance money: save, spend, and give. They can choose to save all, or save some; spend all, spend some, or not spend at all; and give all or give some money away. Tell your kids that if they spend all of their money, they won't be able to have some extra money tomorrow in case their allowance for tomorrow won't be enough for something they want. Give kids a general guideline such as: Save 10 percent, give 10 percent, and spend 80 percent. You may change the percentage in accordance with what is comfortable to you. The important thing is to teach your kids to spend within limits.

4. Stress the importance of saving. Tell your kids what savings are for — in the future, they will have a fund to dip into in case they really need it. Then advise them to save at least 10 percent of their allowance money. If you give them P10 a day, they have to put away P1 in a coin bank. Then make a big deal out of their money growing every day so they will get the point.

5. Have them open their own savings account. When their coin bank becomes full, take your kids to the bank so they can open their own savings accounts, with you as the "manager" of the account (the account will be named: "Your name ITF (in trust for) Your Child" or "Your Child By Your Name." It would be good if you will get passbook savings accounts so your children can see with their own eyes how interest can make their money grow over time.

6. Shop and spend wisely. If they need something for school, take them with you to the mall or to the supermarket so they can learn how to compare prices. Between Pencil A and Pencil B, for instance, show which one is cheaper by pointing out the price tags. Tell them brand names are not that important if both items do what they're supposed to do. Besides, brand names just cost more money. Then you can say that with the money saved by choosing the cheaper pencil, your family will have more savings which you can spend on ice cream, for instance. The next time they need something, let them choose the item based on price. As you said, times are hard these days.

7. Show what is a "need" from a "want." At their ages, kids may want many new things such as toys, gadgets, bags, pencil cases, and so much more. When they ask you to buy them something, ask them: "Do you really need it?" Tell them what qualifies as a need: your priorities such as groceries, and food baon for recess and lunch, for instance. Inform them that the family will buy the needs first, then after that, you will evaluate if non-needs can be bought. Imparting this lesson will help your children curb impulse buying later on.

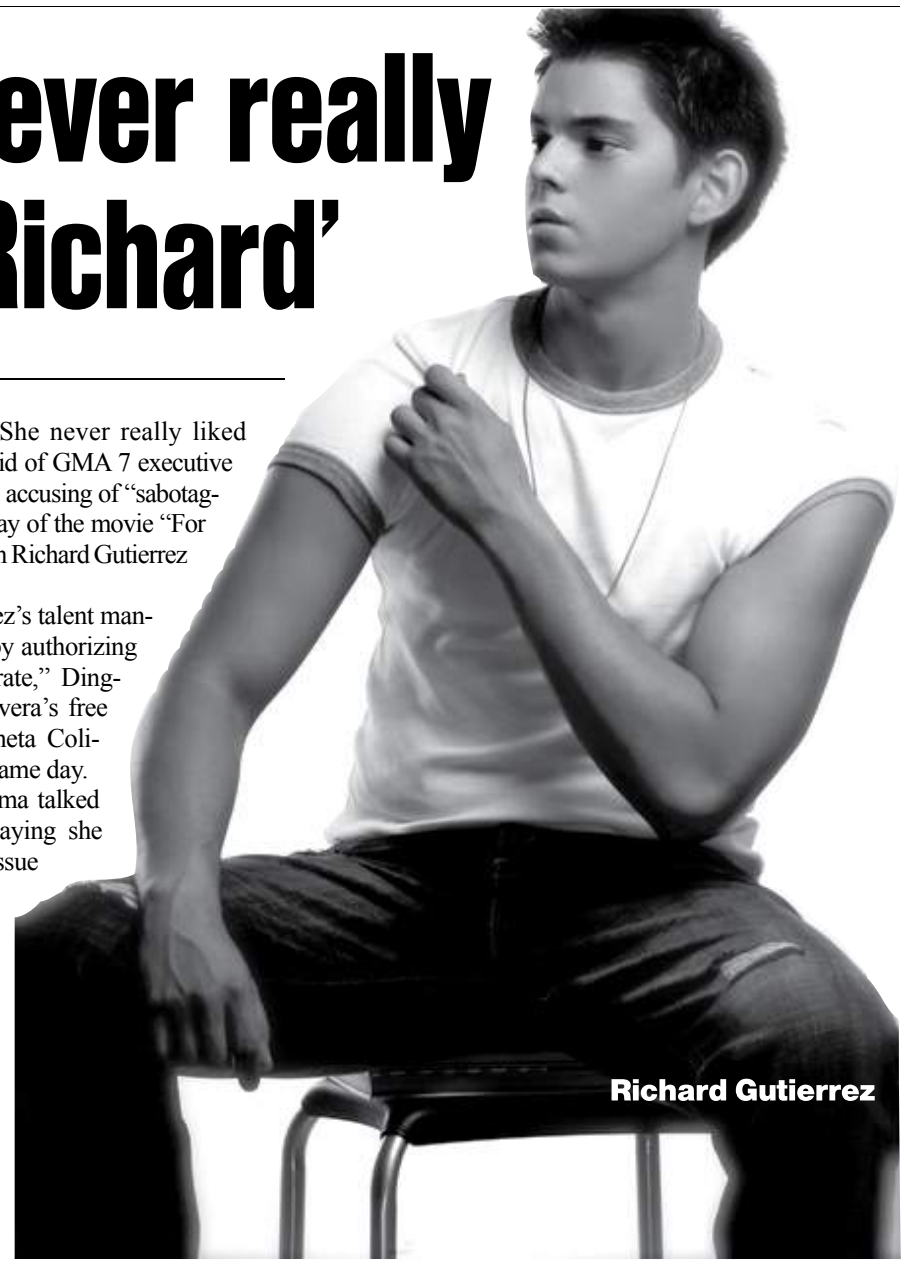
8. Teach them to give. There are many people in need who may not be as fortunate as your family is. Take the time to teach your children to be generous. From their savings, encourage them to put some money in the coin banks for charity organizations displayed in the counters of shops in the malls. Or encourage them to give money to the church themselves when you go on Sundays.

These basic lessons will go a long way in helping your children to be financially responsible.

INQUIRER.net and Citibank invite readers to ask questions regarding financial matters. Send your questions to personal_finance@inquirer.net. Readers are solely responsible for their own investment decisions and should thus conduct their own research and due diligence and obtain professional advice. INQUIRER.net will not be liable for any loss or damage caused by a reader's reliance on information obtained from our web site.

'She never really liked Richard'

By MARINEL CRUZ
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER


Richard Gutierrez

MANILA, Philippines—"She never really liked Richard," Annabelle Rama said of GMA 7 executive Wilma Galvante, whom she is accusing of "sabotaging" the opening on Wednesday of the movie "For the First Time," starring her son Richard Gutierrez and KC Concepcion.

Rama, who is also Gutierrez's talent manager, said Galvante did this by authorizing the staging of "Let's Celebrate," Dingdong Dantes and Marian Rivera's free birthday concert at the Araneta Coliseum, on the evening of the same day.

Also on the same day, Rama talked to Inquirer Entertainment, saying she was being very vocal on the issue only to protect her son.

"For the First Time" was produced by Star Cinema, film arm of ABS-CBN. Gutierrez, a contract artist of GMA 7, was "loaned out" for the project. Gutierrez and Concepcion are set to make a movie under GMA Films next year.

"Sabotahe," Rama fumed. "Sa umpisa pa lang magkagalit na talaga kami ni Wilma. Si Annette and Felipe Gozon lang ang may gusto kay Richard." Gozon is GMA Network chair, and Annette Abrogar, his daughter, is president of GMA Films.

Rama said GMA 7 did not help promote the movie. On the contrary, she ranted, "Tinapatan nila ang lahat ng TV appearances ni Richard sa ABS-CBN. Kung may utak s'ya (Galvante), dapat naisip n'yang this is Richard's movie."

But Rama was pleased with the movie's box-office performance on opening day. "Mas malakas pa raw sa 'A Very Special Love' (another Star Cinema production)," she reported.

The premiere screenings of her son's movie at the SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City on Tuesday night were also well-attended, Rama said, adding that Concepcion's estranged parents Sharon Cuneta and Gabby Concepcion both showed up. "My whole family was there, too," she said.

Gutierrez's contract with GMA 7 expires next year. Is it true that she's moving him to ABS-CBN? "It's too early to say," Rama said, "but we're consulting our lawyer. Kung gusto ko raw namin umalis, pwedeng basehan ang lack of support." Would she ever reconcile with Galvante? "Ewan ko, 'Day," Rama said.

In an earlier interview, Galvante said there was absolutely no intent to pit Richard against Dingdong. She also said she received "malicious" text messages from Rama, but did not reply to any of them.

Galvante said one of the messages, about two weeks ago, said, "Paglalaruan kita nang isang buwan."

Rama denied this, saying the message she sent was, "Pasisikatin kita nang isang buwan." And it's not true that Galvante did not reply, Rama said. "She texted me back, warning na puede ako mademanda (I was courting a lawsuit). She did not scare me. I will do everything to protect my talents."

SC upholds tax evasion case vs Judy Ann Santos

By TETCH TORRES
INQUIRER.NET

MANILA, Philippines—The tax evasion case against actress Judy Ann Santos will push through after the Supreme Court dismissed her petition for review.

In a 27-page decision, the court's third division said that the Court of Tax Appeals en banc that upheld a ruling by its first division against the actress did not err in dismissing her motion to extend the time for her to file a petition for review of her case.

"Petitioner cannot file a petition for review with the CTA en banc to appeal the resolution of the CTA first division," the high court said

"In sum, the CTA en banc did not err in denying petitioner's motion for reconsideration," the high court said.

The actress appealed to the CTA en banc on the decision of its first division that dismissed her motion to quash the information against her.

In her motion to quash, Santos said the information that accused her of alleged violation of the National Internal Revenue Code (NIRC) was defective because the CTA had no jurisdiction on the case and that her right to due process had been violated.

But the CTA en banc had dismissed her motion, saying that a motion to quash is interlocutory and that a denial of such motion is a go signal for the prosecution to push through with the case.

Santos

"Equally settled is the rule that an order denying a motion to quash, being interlocutory, is not immediately appealable nor can it be the subject of a petition for certiorari. Such order may only be reviewed in the ordinary course of law by an appeal from the judgment after trial," the CTA en banc had said.

In the same ruling, the high court also said that it did not also think that Santos' right to due process had been violated because she was given an opportunity to explain herself by being asked to produce evidence.

The high court added that the equal protection clause was not violated because her case was different from that of singer-actress Regine Velasquez who was also charged with tax evasion but which was later dismissed by the Department of Justice.

The high court agreed with the Court of Tax Appeals that if Santos' basis was the case of Velasquez, the actress should have filed a petition for review with the DOJ.

It also took note of the fact that Velasquez's case was dismissed because her tax liability was not yet fully determined when the complaint against her was filed with the DOJ.

An investigation by the BIR showed that Judy Ann Santos incurred a P2.714-million tax deficiency in 2002.

Maharlika – Opinyon

EDITORIAL

Rogues

It does not matter that the two rogue field commanders of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front now being pursued by the military do not recognize the authority of the government. It does not matter that the MILF refuses to "recognize" the Constitution, and believes that the continuing political wrangling over the controversial Memorandum of Agreement on ancestral domain is entirely "internal" to the government. The government has both the right and the responsibility to enforce the law within Philippine boundaries. That means those MILF rebels who launched armed offensives in the provinces of North Cotabato and Lanao del Norte last week are fully within the ambit of the government's authority.

Why do we belabor the obvious? Because of the pernicious idea that rebels like Ameril Ombra Kato and Abdulla Macapaar, better known as Commander Bravo, are actually outside the law. They aren't, in the exact same way that an Indonesian bomb-maker for the Jemaah Islamiyah terror network training recruits in Mindanao is not outside the law. In both cases, Philippine laws have been violated; in both cases, Philippine law enforcement agents and security forces have the duty to bring the lawbreakers to justice.

The government has offered a P5-million bounty for the capture of each rogue commander, and the Armed Forces' 6th Infantry Division thinks Kato himself has been wounded in the military counterattack. The division's spokesman, Lt. Col. Julieto Ando, points to the attempted abduction of a Cotabato City doctor last week as an indication that Kato was injured. "Usually in fighting, if a ranking rebel leader or commander [gets] hurt, they are going to kidnap physicians," Ando said. MILF spokesman Eid Kabalu was dismissive of the news. "The kidnapping angle is another [piece of] black propaganda," he said.

The charge of kidnapping may still have to be proven, but no one denies that MILF units launched armed offensives last week, attacking civilian centers. Not even the MILF leadership can deny that. It cannot appeal to Malaysia, the United States or other friendly countries supportive of the peace process to stop Philippine authorities from pursuing Kato and Bravo; even these allies know the armed actions not only broke the ceasefire in place but violated both national and international laws.

It would be too much to expect the MILF to turn over its rogue commanders to government authorities (indeed, its capacity to do so is crucial to the very possibility of successful peace negotiations). But going by its own logic, the MILF cannot expect the Philippine government to stop its pursuit of the rebels who shattered the peace. It is a matter entirely, completely "internal" to the government.
(Philippine Daily Inquirer)

Insanities

The logic of Catch-22 was absurdly brilliant. From Joseph Heller's novel explaining the concept:

"There was only one catch and that was Catch-22, which specified that a concern for one's safety in the face of dangers that were real and immediate was the process of a rational mind. Orr was crazy and could be grounded. All he had to do was ask; and as soon as he did, he would no longer be crazy and would have to fly more missions. Orr would be crazy to fly more missions and sane if he didn't, but if he was sane he had to fly them. If he flew them he was crazy and didn't have to; but if he didn't want to, he was sane and had to. Yossarian was moved very deeply by the absolute simplicity of this clause of Catch-22 and let out a respectful whistle.

"That's some catch, that Catch-22."

I remembered this after I read about the group Migrante complaining angrily about the proposal of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) to subject all departing overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) to a psychiatric test. Migrante of course put its detraction in quite a different way. My own reaction was to see in it a reverse of Catch-22:

"There is only one catch and that is Catch-as-Catch-Can, which specifies that a concern for one and one's family's welfare in the face of hunger that is real and immediate is the sign of a rational mind. Juana is sane and may fly abroad. All she has to do is undergo the DFA test. But as soon as she does, she ceases to be sane, proposing as she does to throw herself willy-nilly into unknown dangers in unknown lands, and deserves to be grounded. Juana would be sane to avoid risking untold dangers and would be crazy to do so, but if she is sane then she is qualified to go abroad and risk untold dangers. If she prefers to stay here, she is sane and may therefore go abroad; if she wants to go abroad, she is crazy and may only stay here. We have to marvel at the absolute simplicity of this clause of Catch-as-Catch Can."

But as I said, Migrante put it differently. Specifically, Migrante said: "(It's the) DFA officials who should have their heads examined if they really believe mandatory psychiatric tests could help prevent OFWs from snapping in the workplace. (Their proposal) essentially typecasts OFWs as lunatics. By refusing to acknowledge the realities of OFW work—deplorable working conditions, verbal, physical, emotional and sexual abuse, torture and nonpayment of wages—and by conveniently glossing over the fact that most of the time OFWs commit crimes to defend themselves while others are simply framed, the DFA in essence is condemning our OFWs. If we followed their logic, then Sarah Balabagan, Mary Jane Ramos and Joselito Alejo were lunatics and not heroes, as they were hailed when they arrived home from their overseas ordeal."

There's The Rub
By CONRADO DE QUIROS
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

It's a good point, and one we would do very well to ponder. The question is whether the person you are sending out is loony-tunes or the place he is going to is bound to make him so. Or put another way, the question is whether the person you are sending out is a risk to the community you are sending him out to or the conditions of work you are sending him out to are a risk to the person you are sending out. In many cases, the second is truer than the first. It's the deplorable working conditions, the verbal, physical, emotional and sexual abuse, the torture, the nonpayment of wages that make OFWs snap and go berserk. That is probably more the rule than the exception. No exam is going to change that.

I do think a pre-departure orientation seminar is in order. Many OFWs do go out without an appreciation, or even bare knowledge, of the place they are going to, and many sources of conflicts have to do simply with clashes of cultures. I know that because my friends from FASAP (Flight Attendants and Stewards Association of the Philippines) have a lot of horror stories about it. They often had to take on the job of the DFA, admonishing OFWs on board flights to fundamentalist Muslim countries to leave their Bibles and religious icons or paraphernalia in the plane. Those items will be confiscated at Immigration anyway, if their possessors do not end up enduring nightmarish ordeals at the airport. A modicum of understanding of the ways of others should go a long way toward keeping sane in straitened circumstances.

But there is a larger point here, which is what my reference to Catch-22 is meant to suggest. That is the spectacle of following logic in an illogical situation, or enforcing sanity in the part while madness riots in the whole. It goes by many names: Catch-22, the tail wagging the dog, microsense micro madness.

There is something sublimely absurd about making sure that only sane people are sent out to do insane work. There is something violently contradictory about guaranteeing that people are able to keep their family together by exposing them to conditions that guarantee they will tear their family asunder. There is something maddeningly insane about assuring that people are sufficiently sane to carry out the insane task of keeping a country afloat by sending its people to work abroad.

I don't know of any country today that is so dependent on overseas work. That has for its lifeblood overseas work. That cannot survive for one day without overseas work. Absurdity piles up on absurdity. I don't know of any country today that is so desperate for overseas work it is willing to send its citizens to places God or Allah forgot. I don't know of any country today that has turned whole universities into nursing schools, or turned entire departments into adjuncts of the nursing one. I don't know of any country today that doesn't even mind selling itself, quite apart from its people, to the highest bidder, piece by piece, parcel by parcel, lot by lot, just to survive—or to make its officials happy.

And we want our OFWs sane.

Three lost manuscripts

Whenever I ask my students what they associate with the words "prehistory" or "prehistoric," they often mention dinosaurs and cavemen. While these things figure prominently in our history, we tend to forget that history is based on writing, that history is based on the past recorded in writing. Historians thus work with written sources either in manuscript (as in handwritten materials) or printed text (as in books, magazines, newspapers, pamphlets, posters etc.).

These materials are often found in archives and libraries that have gone through a lot of battering in the past century. The Philippines is particularly unfortunate because much of its cultural materials were destroyed during the Battle for Manila in 1945. Thus historians often reach a dead end when the material they seek or need happens to have been "destroyed during the war."

Once while doing research in the Great Reading Room of the British Library in Bloomsbury, London, I requested to see a particularly rare 17th-century pamphlet that could not be located. I asked not once but thrice and got the same answer, so I asked to speak with a supervisor who then explained that the material I needed was destroyed during one of the German air raids on London during World War II. The librarian looked sorry for me, and with a gleam in his eyes he said, "Well, Mr. Ocampo, you can blame the Germans for the destruction of this rare work which is important for your study of the Philippine past."

I was told that four great libraries survived the war because of an unwritten agreement between the British and German air forces. The Germans promised not to bomb Oxford and Cambridge if the British reciprocated by sparing Heidelberg and Tubingen. If this story is true, then these ancient university towns and their libraries survived the horrors and destruction of the last world war because some military and political officials were civilized enough to respect these institutions of higher learning.

Unfortunately for us, the University of the Philippines Library was torched by the Japanese, and the National Library and Museum, then housed in what we now call the "Old Congress," was one of the casualties of the Battle for Manila. We can never truly know the extent of the destruction but reading descriptions of the National Library before the war makes me weep.

Looking Back
By AMBETH OCAMPO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

In 1912 three "pre-Spanish" documents were donated to the library by one Jose E. Marco. One manuscript was described as written on tree bark with cuttlefish ink. The Bulletin of the Philippine Library in September 1913 described the manuscript collections, stating that one of the national treasures was a collection of Jose Rizal manuscripts. Mention was made of the originals of "Noli Me Tangere," "El Filibusterismo" and "Ultimo Adios" that have survived to our time, but the manuscripts that make me very curious were described as follows:

"Those of first importance historically are three manuscripts written in the old Visayan characters on bonga bark. These constitute the greatest literary find ever made in the Philippine Islands. They were found in the Island of Negros and were obtained for the library by the care and interest of a young Filipino, Mr. Jose E. Marco, who was educated in American schools, and who appreciates the value of historical material much above the average. Although they have not yet been deciphered, it is known that they relate to certain old beliefs of the people. The key to their transcription is known, and their translation into English is only a matter of time. Their importance lies in the fact that they are the only known manuscripts of this class that have been preserved. The early friar missionaries are said to have destroyed many in their zeal to rid the land of all heathen influences. Several of the friar convents in Manila possess a few samples of the ancient writing, but they are written on paper and are mainly names of persons. The age of the library manuscripts can as yet only be guessed at as perhaps between one and two centuries, although it is not impossible that they might have been written nearer the time of the first Spanish settlements in 1565.

"Old Spanish writers assert that the Visayans could not write at the time of the conquest, but that the Tagalogs could. If this be true, the Visayans learned the art of writing after the advent of the Spaniards, and if so, this determines roughly the age of these literary treasures. When discovered first, these manuscripts appear to have been covered with a resinous gum which acted as a preservative. It is reported by certain ethnologists that the half-wild mountain people of Negros carry native writings as charms, and that they guard these very jealously. In this connection should, perhaps, be mentioned the bamboo tools owned by the library on which are etched the curious characters employed today by the Mangyans of Mindoro. These are modern and were made especially for the library through the interest of Commissioner Worcester."

While later scholarship has proven these to be forgeries—including the so-called Code of Kalantiaw—I'm still curious to know what these bogus documents looked like so that I could further understand the work of Jose E. Marco, who made a mark in the writing of early Philippine history.

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu.

Maharlika – Samu't Sari

POTENTIAL INVESTOR

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial meets with Danilo R. Sy, the president of GSMi (http://www.gsmi.com.ph/), a software solutions company based in Quezon City, Philippines.

CABINET MEMBER

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Dr. Dante Ang, chairman of the Commission on Filipinos Overseas, poses with members of the United Filipino Organizations along with Consul General Wilfredo DL. Maximo shortly after an open forum at the OWWA office on Saipan on Wednesday night, Aug. 27.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Chairman of the Commission on Filipinos Overseas Dr. Dante Ang poses for a photo with Consul General Wilfredo DL. Maximo, Consul Belinda M. Ante, Labor Representative Joan Lourdes D. Lavilla, Welfare Officer Leonor C. Mabagal and members of the local media during a luncheon meeting at the Saipan Grand Hotel yesterday.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Chairman of the Commission on Filipinos Overseas Dr. Dante Ang poses for a photo with Consul General Wilfredo DL. Maximo, Consul Belinda M. Ante, Labor Representative Joan Lourdes D. Lavilla and Welfare Officer Leonor C. Mabagal during a luncheon meeting at the Saipan Grand Hotel yesterday.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Glaiza Mae Revilla Remillosa poses with her family and godfathers during her christening on August 24, 2008.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Birthday girl Annette, left, strikes a pose with friends Garrie, Leah and Obet.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Hapi celebrates his birthday with close friends in Finasisu.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Birthday boy Hapi with members of the Northern Marianas Badminton Federation Badminton group at the Saipan World Resort.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

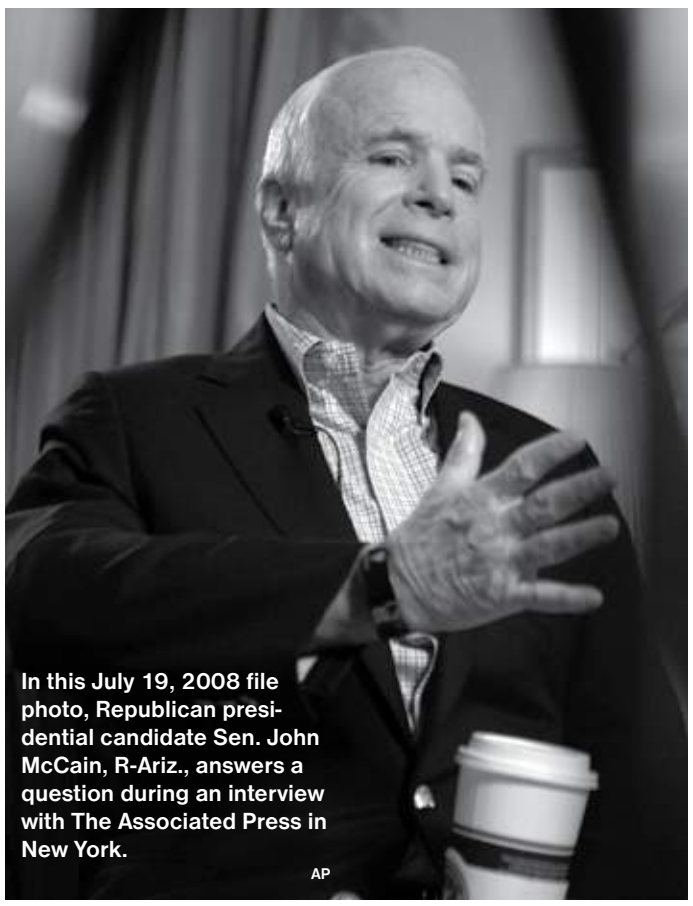
Glaiza Mae Revilla Remillosa with mom Josephine and dad Rene after her christening.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Birthday celebrants Leah and Hapi blow their candles at the Dr. Jack's Restaurant.

Youngstyle

Nominees are no surprise, but conventions still generate buzz



In this July 19, 2008 file photo, Republican presidential candidate Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., answers a question during an interview with The Associated Press in New York.
AP

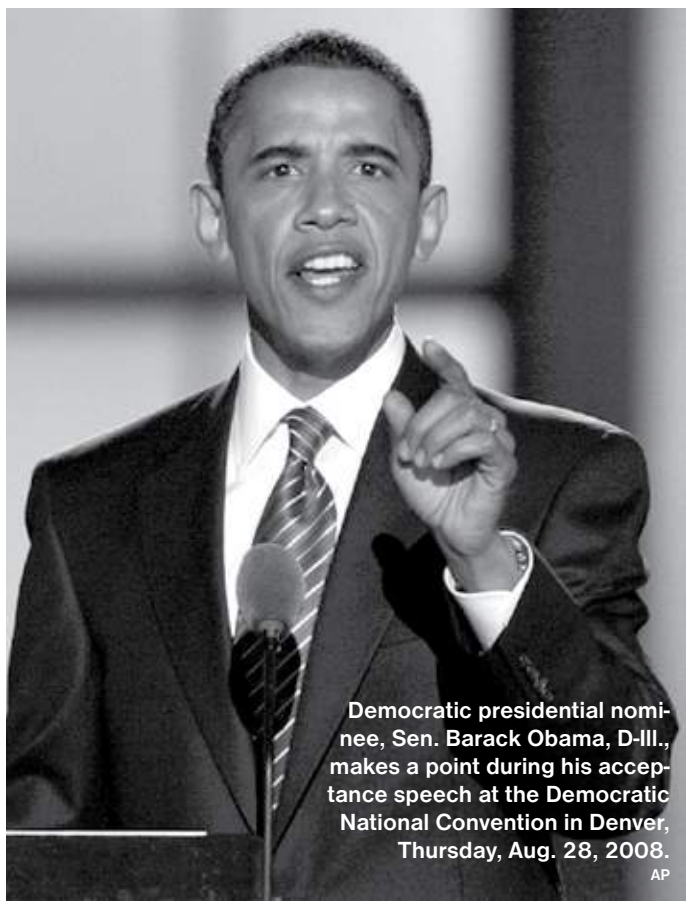
PRESIDENTIAL PLAYLISTS

Here are each presidential candidate's five favorite songs, as told to Blender magazine. You might need to ask your parents (or grandparents) whether any of them belong on your iPod.

BARACK OBAMA
1. "Ready or Not," Fugees
2. "What's Going On," Marvin Gaye
3. "I'm on Fire," Bruce Springsteen
4. "Gimme Shelter," Rolling Stones
5. "Sinnerman," Nina Simone

JOHN McCAIN
1. "Dancing Queen," Abba
2. "Blue Bayou," Roy Orbison
3. "Take a Chance on Me," Abba
4. "If We Make It Through December," Merle Haggard
5. "As Time Goes By," Dooley Wilson

(c) 2008, The Washington Post



Democratic presidential nominee, Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., makes a point during his acceptance speech at the Democratic National Convention in Denver, Thursday, Aug. 28, 2008.
AP

By VALERIE STRAUSS
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

We already know the two main candidates in November's presidential election: Republican John McCain and Democrat Barack Obama.

So you might be wondering, why are the political parties holding conventions this week and next to "officially" nominate them? After all, the events sometimes seem like nothing more than a party, complete with music, balloons and a lot of noise.

American political parties have been holding these gatherings since the 1800s.

Every four years each party sends delegates to agree on a presidential candidate and to approve a "platform," — the party's positions on key issues facing the country.

There used to be great suspense at conventions. People did not always know who the nominee would be, and there were big fights during the event to decide it.

Today things are different. The major nominees are decided much earlier, through the long primary season. And platform debates usually happen before the convention.

So why hold them? The political parties use these events to unify and excite their members for the general election and to introduce the candidates to the public.

Some people argue that it is time to get rid of them. Others say they are still a great American political tradition. Why don't you watch them on television and decide for yourself?

The Democratic Party's convention began Monday and ended through Thursday, when Obama will accepted the nomination with a speech to 76,000 people at Invesco Field at Mile High in Denver.

The Republicans will hold their convention next week, from Sept. 1 to 4 in St. Paul, Minn. McCain will give his speech Sept. 4.

The candidates answer kids' questions

In July, KidsPost asked readers what questions they would like the presidential candidates to answer. We received lots of terrific questions. Now, just in time for the political conventions, here are the candidates' answers.

Q: What are your favorite TV shows?—Robin, 11, Orange, Va.

JOHN MCCAIN, Republican senator from Arizona: I nearly got kicked out of the Naval Academy for having a TV in my room, but now the only problem is running for president doesn't leave much time for watching television. When my wife, Cindy, and I do have time, we love to watch "Seinfeld" reruns.

BARACK OBAMA, Democratic senator from Illinois: My favorite TV show is probably "SportsCenter" on ESPN. ... When I'm home with Sasha and Malia (his daughters, who are 7 and 10), we're more likely to be watching "Bear in the Big Blue House" or "SpongeBob (SquarePants)." But truth is, we don't like to watch too much TV.

Q: It seems kind of weird that me and my mom get to ... hang around all summer, while all the kids in Iraq and Afghanistan have to be in a war, even though they didn't do anything. ... What will you do to help all the moms and kids in Iraq and Afghanistan after the war is over?—Kelly Lynn, 6, Annandale, Va.

OBAMA: You're absolutely right that children and families are often victims of war, and that's why we need to be very, very careful when we decide to fight a war. ...

In Afghanistan, the best way for us to help kids and their families is to make sure that their communities are kept safe from the spreading violence and that their country doesn't fall back under the strict and repressive rule of the Taliban. To make sure that doesn't happen, I will send in additional American troops and offer greater assistance ... including assistance that helps Afghan children go to school.

MCCAIN: One of the most important things we're doing in Iraq and Afghanistan is making a better, safer future for the children there. The next generation of Iraqis and (Afghans) would never have been able to enjoy freedom and prosperity as long as Saddam Hussein and the Taliban remained in power. But thanks to the hard work of our troops and our allies, more kids, especially girls, in those countries are able to go to good schools and do many of the things we take for granted in America.

Q: When you are president, do you think you will have a pet in the White House?—Anna Clare, 7, Kensington, Md.

OBAMA: When I started running for president, Michelle and I promised Malia and Sasha that they could get a dog when we move into the White House—and they're holding me to that promise! Malia has been doing a lot of research into dog breeds just to make sure she's ready.

MCCAIN: If I am elected president, I will definitely have pets in the White House. At home in Arizona, we have 21 pets: Sam, an English springer spaniel; Coco, a mutt; Oreo, a black and white cat; three parakeets; 13 saltwater fish; and the newest additions: Lucy and Desi, teacup Yorkshire terriers. If I am elected president, they'll all get to move to Washington.

Q: Since global warming is such a big issue now, what would you do to lower the use of (items) not being recycled in the United States?—Kendall, 10, Washington

MCCAIN: I believe greater awareness of climate change and its potential effect on our children will lead to more responsible stewardship of our environment. Recycling is one of many ways in which Americans can help.

OBAMA: We'll invest in clean energy sources, and we'll commit to getting more of our electricity from sources like wind and solar (power) and cut the amount of greenhouse gases we produce.

You're right that recycling more and using less Styrofoam and paper are important, and there are other steps you can take, too, like carpooling with your friends on the way to school or turning the lights off when you leave the room.

Q: When you get up in the morning, what are you thinking?—Jennifer, 11, Aldie, Va.

OBAMA: The first thing I think about in the morning is how much I love my family and how blessed I am to be able to share my life with them.

MCCAIN: I fly to different cities every day. ... So I tend to wake up somewhere new every morning. When I get up, I'm usually thinking about what I have to do that day because the campaign trail is so busy.

Q: I think kids should be trusted to vote because they do pay attention. What are you going to do about kids not being able to vote?—Andrew, 7, Vienna, Va.

MCCAIN: I hope kids pay attention to politics because the more they learn about the process, the more they can make a difference when they grow up. And even though kids have to wait until they're 18 to vote, there's no law against kids telling their parents who to vote for—especially if it's me.

OBAMA: I'm glad you're paying attention, Andrew, and, like you, my daughters would like to have a bigger say in what happens in their world—but I don't plan to ask Congress to lower the voting age. The good news is that there are many ways that young people like you can make a difference, whether it's writing letters to your representatives or talking to your parents, teachers and friends about the issues that matter to you.

‘Where The Red Fern Grows’: Best friends forever

By BRENNA MALONEY
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

NFL football star Jason Campbell recalls his dogged companions in his KidsPost Summer Book Club selection.

“Where The Red Fern Grows”
By Wilson Rawls
Ages 8-12

This is a fitting final entry for a summer book club that began with “Old Yeller.”

“Where the Red Fern Grows” is set in the Ozarks of Oklahoma during the Great Depression that began in 1929.

Ten-year-old Billy Colman works hard and saves his earnings for two years to achieve his dream of buying two coon hound pups. The dogs, Old Dan and Little Ann, prove to be wonderful companions and great hunters.

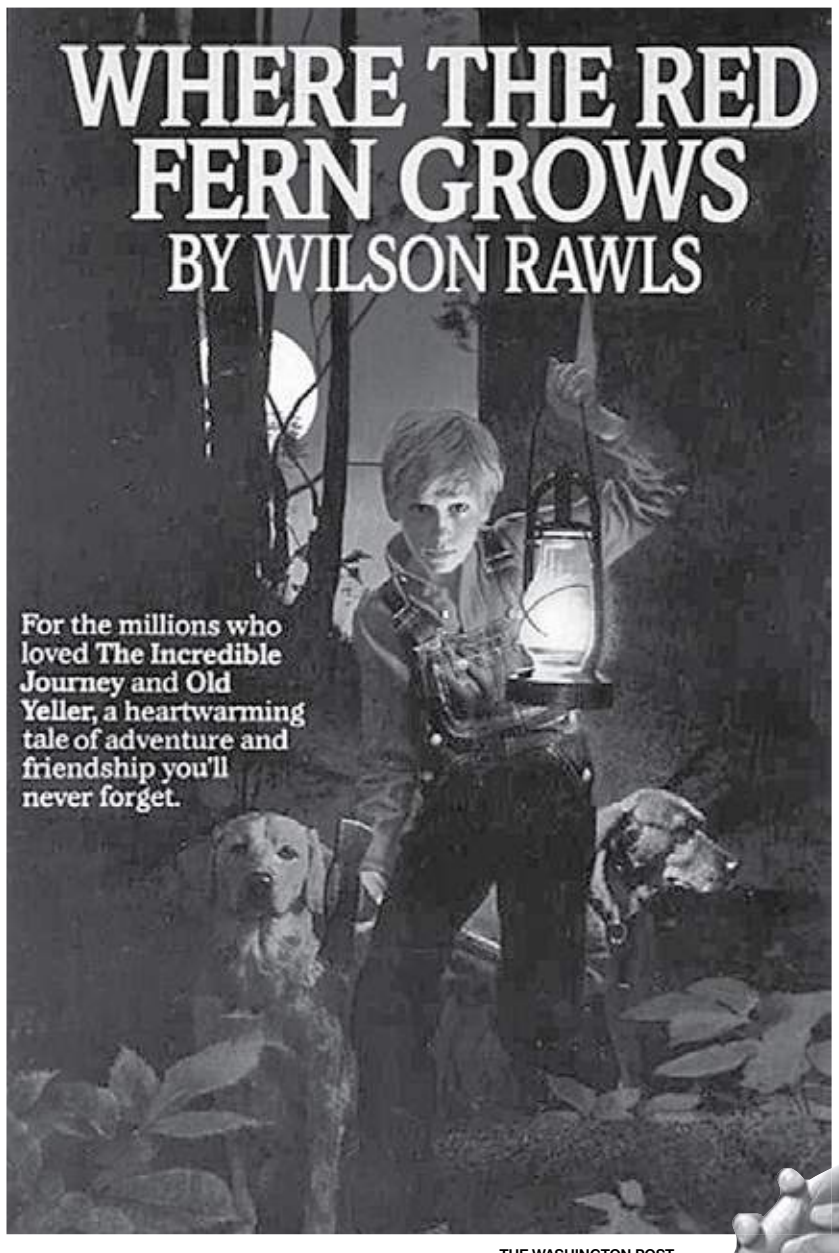
RED FERN’ FACT

Wilson Rawls, author of “Where the Red Fern Grows,” burned five manuscripts he had written because he was ashamed of his bad spelling and punctuation. His wife later persuaded him to rewrite “Red.” ***((c) 2008, The Washington Post)***

With Billy, they scour the Ozarks, looking for raccoons.

Their efforts lead to success as they win a big coon-hunting contest. But an encounter with a mountain lion results in tragedy. That’s when Billy learns about, and is comforted by, a Native American legend about a red fern.

Trust us, you will cry your eyes out. Just like you did with “Old Yeller.”


WHERE THE RED FERN GROWS
BY WILSON RAWLS
For the millions who loved The Incredible Journey and Old Yeller, a heartwarming tale of adventure and friendship you'll never forget.

THE WASHINGTON POST
NFL football star Jason Campbell recalls his dogged companions in his KidsPost Summer Book Club selection, “Where the Red Fern Grows,” which is set in the Ozarks of Oklahoma during the Great Depression that began in 1929.

SCANNING THE SHELVES

For a different type of adventure, try “Island of the Blue Dolphins.” Inspired by the true story of a 12-year-old Native American girl, this book by Scott O’Dell won the Newbery Medal in 1961. Fifteen years later, during the nation’s 200th birthday, the Children’s Literature Association named it one of the 10 best American children’s books.

The story is about a girl who finds herself alone on an island off the California coast after her younger brother dies. She must learn to fend for herself, a situation that lasts 18 years. ***((c) 2008, The Washington Post)***

Reading with the stars

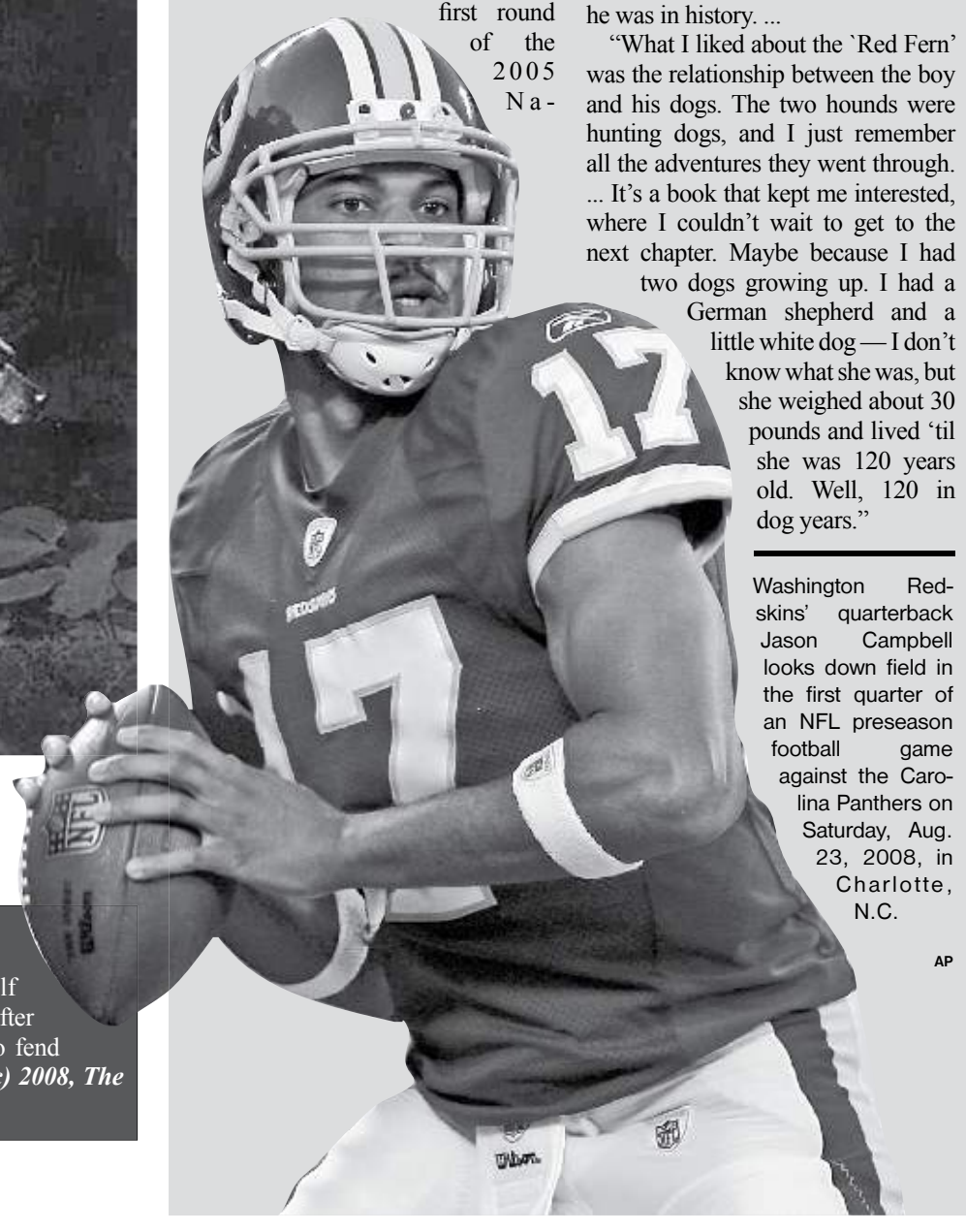
By MIKE WISE
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

At age 26, Jason Campbell is about to start his fourth season with the Washington Redskins football team. Last year the former Auburn University star emerged as the regular starting quarterback for Washington, until a knee injury sidelined him in December.

Campbell was the 25th pick in the first round of the 2005 National Football League draft. He spoke with The Post’s Mike Wise about books and writers he enjoyed as a kid in Laurel, Miss.

“Two of my favorite books growing up were `Where the Red Fern Grows’ and `Old Yeller’. I really liked the writer Langston Hughes, too. Being African-American, he was an inspiration for me. ... I learned about his life and his work and how important he was in history. ...

“What I liked about the `Red Fern’ was the relationship between the boy and his dogs. The two hounds were hunting dogs, and I just remember all the adventures they went through. ... It’s a book that kept me interested, where I couldn’t wait to get to the next chapter. Maybe because I had two dogs growing up. I had a German shepherd and a little white dog — I don’t know what she was, but she weighed about 30 pounds and lived ‘til she was 120 years old. Well, 120 in dog years.”



Washington Redskins’ quarterback Jason Campbell looks down field in the first quarter of an NFL preseason football game against the Carolina Panthers on Saturday, Aug. 23, 2008, in Charlotte, N.C.

AP

Why do you get goose bumps?

They go by different names — goose bumps or goose pimples — but they are the same thing: those little bumps that appear on your skin when you are cold or afraid.

By VALERIE STRAUSS
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

They go by different names — goose bumps or goose pimples — but they are the same thing: those little bumps that appear on your skin when you are cold or afraid.

Here’s what happens when a person gets cold: The muscles in human skin (yes, everybody has muscles IN their skin) contract, and that causes the little hairs that cover your body to stand up.

That hair-raising process can make you a little warmer in two ways. For one thing, hair that stands on end traps more air that can warm your skin than hair that’s lying flat. And, as with all muscular activity, this skin muscle movement produces heat, which is another way your body tries to help you warm up.

Things happen a little differently when you are afraid, but the result is the same.

Fear makes your body produce adrenaline, a chemical that prepares you for emergency action. It makes your heart beat faster, which you may have noticed if you have been in a scary movie and felt your chest suddenly pounding, and it makes your muscles tense, which we’ve learned causes skin hairs to rise.

Raised hair caused by goose bumps makes some animals appear larger and may scare predators. Scientists think that a long time ago, when people were covered with heavy hair, goose bumps worked the same way.

So how did goose bumps get their name? They look like the bumpy flesh of a goose with plucked feathers.

Source: The Handy Answer Book for Kids (and Parents) by Judy Galens and Nancy Pear

BRAIN TEASERS

New York Yankees Trivia

By KRISTEN PERRONE
KIDSDAY REPORTER

The Yankees are one of the most popular teams in baseball. This season is the last in Yankee Stadium. Think you know your stuff about the Yankees? Try my quiz:

1. When did Alex Rodriguez hit his 500th career home run?
A. July 27, 1999
B. Sept. 2, 2002
C. Aug. 4, 2007
D. May 15, 2005

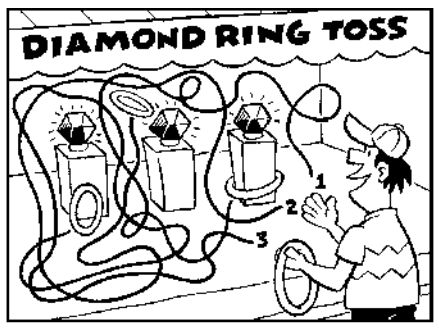
2. How many World Series titles have the Yankees won?
A. 36
B. 26
C. 10
D. 40

3. What are the names of the past four players who have been captains of the Yankees (including the current captain)?
A. Jorge Posada, Frank Torre, Phil Rizzuto and Babe Ruth.
B. Bernie Williams, Don Mattingly, Ron Guidry and Mickey Mantle.
C. Johnny Damon, Mark McGwire, Sparky Anderson and Satchel Paige.
D. Derek Jeter, Don Mattingly, Ron Guidry and Willie Randolph.

4. How many numbers have the Yankees retired?
A. 16
B. 8
C. 20
D. 17

ANSWERS: 1) c, 2) b, 3) d, 4) a (the number 8 was retired twice)

DIAMOND RING TOSS



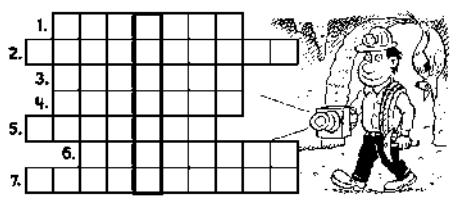
JIMMY JUST WON a genuine Fakeridium, almost-diamond ring. You have one guess to determine which toss was the lucky one.

Answer: Toss #1.

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

IT'S SPELUNKING TIME!



Let's go caving. In the grid to the left, there is room to enter seven words pertaining to cave exploration. Don't go "batty" looking for the right ones. The following hints should be of help:

1. A large cave room.
2. A ceiling feature.
3. Their pictures are often found on cave walls.
4. All spelunkers should wear these.
5. What you do in a cave.
6. This is often the smallest part of a cave.
7. Needed most when exploring a cave.

There is a dark frame around one of the columns in our grid. If you correctly solve the puzzle, the letters in the frame, top to bottom, will tell you what the name of a famous cave is.

Answers: 1. Chamber. 2. Stalactite. 3. Animals. 4. Helmets. 5. Explore. 6. Entrance. 7. Flashlight. The dark framed column spells "Mammoth," the name of a famous cave in Kentucky.

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X-RAY VISION! Say to your friend, "I'll bet you that if you place a quarter in the palm of my hand, tails-side up, I can tell you what the date is just by looking at the back of the coin." After he places the coin on your hand, look at it for a moment, then tell him what today's date is. After all, you didn't say you'd tell him the *coin's* date!

LET THE WORD GAMES BEGIN! At right is a word square. Can you find the four five-letter words that match the definitions below? All words used must read the same both across and down.

1. Often worn on your sleeve.
2. Something weird.
3. Basketball building (given).
4. Slippery places.
5. To annoy or make fun of.

	1	2	3	4	5
1			A		
2			R		
3	A	R	E	N	A
4			N		
5			A		

Answers: 1. Heart. 2. Eerie. 3. Arena. 4. Rinks. 5. Tease.

Strange BUT TRUE

By SAMANTHA WEAVER

■ Do you remember those commercials that asked, "How many licks does it take to get to the Tootsie Roll center of a Tootsie Pop?" When I was a kid, I could never find out—I always bit the candy first. Well, some engineering students at Purdue University in Indiana decided to find out in a more scientific manner: They invented a licking machine. As it turns out, it takes an average of 364 licks to get to the center of a Tootsie Pop.

■ It was Sir Arthur C. Clarke, British inventor, futurist and science-fiction author of such novels as "2001: A Space Odyssey," who made the following observation: "Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic."

■ The first U.S. president to ride in an automobile was William McKinley, and the ride was in an ambulance after he was shot in 1901. Another interesting McKinley tidbit: He was the last Civil War veteran to be elected to the presidency.

■ Think you're a movie lover? Consider the man who was desperate to be one of the first people to see the film "Star Wars: Episode III." He actually camped out in front of the box office for 139 days in order to get tickets. He didn't slack off work, though: He used his laptop computer and cell phone to stay in touch with the office.

■ Those who study such things say that cats have 32 muscles in each ear.

■ Have you ever known anyone who engages in grammatolatry? Probably not. "Grammatolatry" refers to the worship of words—unlikely in this day and age of 24-hour must-see TV and on-demand video.

■ ■ ■

Thought for the Day: "People like to imagine that because all our mechanical equipment moves so much faster, that we are thinking faster, too."—Christopher Morley

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MAGIC MAZE ● LIZARDS

P W R T Q N K I F C Y Z W U R
P H M O W J H E C Z N X U S Q
G N S L T H J G E C I E Z X V
T N R U F I I P N L P C E J H
E C I A R Y N P W T S N G R V
T R P Y I B D O T N N E N R G
L K I A L D E R M A N F U E G
E C B Z L F X G A I I W O T U
S R P O E R O T A G I L L A M
L J I O D O M O K S O G E W D
B A Y X W U T S Q D E N R O H

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Alderman	Frilled	Komodo	Spiny
Alligator	Giant	Lounge	Water
Dragon	Green	Monitor	Whiptail
Fence	Horned	Sagebrush	

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

	+		x		26
−		÷		x	
	x		+		21
x		x		+	
	+		−		10
14		18		24	

DIFFICULTY: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 9

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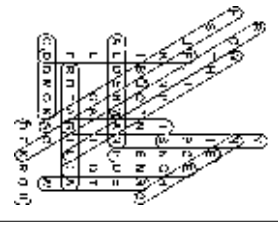
MAGIC MAZE ANSWER



GO FIGURE ANSWER

14	18	24		
7	9	6	−	10
x	3	+		
3	x	4	+	21
−	÷		x	
5	+	8	x	26

Head of the Class

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I have a few dogs, including a Chihuahua. "Jasper" is different from the rest of them. Now, I don't believe in training a dog except for housebreaking, but one day when I was playing with Jasper he started to pick up hand signals without me teaching them to him. None of my other dogs will follow basic commands—sit, stay, etc.—but Jasper knows all of them. Do you know how he learned all of these tricks? Can a dog just pick something up?

-- Morgan M., Orange, Conn.

DEAR MORGAN: Dogs pick up a tremendous amount of information from us, usually without us realizing it. If we display bad habits around them—allowing them to jump up on strangers, or losing our temper when they get playful—then they will quickly pick up on and exploit those habits. I'll bet even the dumbest dog in your household knows how to push your buttons to get what it wants. It's instinctive; it's one of the things dogs do best.

Now, Jasper is probably one of the smartest dogs in your house. Maybe not the smartest—the dog that has figured out it can ignore your commands without consequence and then demonstrated that to the other dogs is the smartest dog in your house right now—but Jasper is pretty darn smart. And eager to please. And he sees you as his pack leader, the one he needs to please in order to get food and comfort (something that a small dog in a house full of pooches is worried about). So you have an instant advantage in training Jasper. He can and should learn more advanced commands.

But do not ignore your other dogs' training, either. One of those dogs sees itself as the pack leader right now. Figure out which one it is, and establish yourself as the head of the pack—this includes restarting basic obedience and enforcing "house rules" with all your dogs.

■ ■ ■

Send your tips, questions and comments to Paws Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or e-mail them to pawscorner@hotmail.com.

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Judge this book by its cover

Whenever I visit my friends' homes, one of the first things I notice when I walk through the door are the signs of family life. There might be a baseball bat and flip-flops strewn haphazardly in the entryway or an empty orange-juice carton on the counter that hasn't made it to the recycle bin.

But what really captures my attention are the odds and ends that have become keepsakes and family treasures. I'm drawn to the priceless kids' artwork in inexpensive IKEA frames hanging in the hallway, or the nature-find collection glued to a mayonnaise jar "vase" with freshly picked zinnias spilling out in all directions.

Here's another sign of family life that you can leave on your coffee table—and one that invites you to leaf through. It's a book with a homemade cover that gives a clue about the story that's sandwiched between front and back. Publish it together with your kids before summer is over and your thoughts turn to fall activities. This Summer 2008 memory catcher will speak volumes about what you did and who you are as a family.

Here's how: Grab an empty scrapbook and fill it with jottings, postcards, photos and memorabilia from your family's summer outings and vacation. We like to use a large spiral-bound artist tablet (available at art and discount stores). Then decorate a piece of poster board and attach it to the sketchbook's original cover. Your cover might show a scraggly bit of lichen glued onto small pieces of driftwood and arranged to frame a photo of the north-woods cabin you slept in. Or maybe you have a glowing pink seashell or two that you picked up along the shore.

Put your eye-catching story out for everyone to see. Thumb through it often with your kids and see how, together, you make traditions out of your shared experiences.

■ ■ ■

Donna Erickson's award-winning television series "Donna's Day" airs on public television nationwide. Visit www.donnasday.com to find out when it airs on your local PBS station and to sign up for Donna's e-newsletter.

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Life & Style

Blinding array of stars gather for DNC climax

DENVER (AP)—The Force is with Obama.

George Lucas was among the entertainers and Hollywood types who were spotted in the halls of Invesco Field on Thursday in the hours leading up to Barack Obama's historic acceptance speech. Forest Whitaker arrived with his wife Keisha and Star Jones, while will.i.am of the Black Eyed Peas was spotted leaving the field level following Stevie Wonder's sound check.

Before singing the national anthem to a slowly filling stadium, Jennifer Hudson appeared lost in thought, wearing a casual grey dress and listening to iPod earphones as her handlers asked for directions to the podium. While waiting, she typed on a Sidekick.

Also spotted on the field in the hours leading up to the presentation: Daniel Dae Kim of "Lost," new mom Jessica Alba and her husband Cash Warren, Rosario Dawson, Wilmer Valderrama, and Fergie—who waved to fans shouting her name.

"Fired up!" said an excited Spike Lee. "Bigger than the Super Bowl!"

The musical lineup for the evening included will.i.am performing with John Legend, Sheryl Crow (who Obama has said is among the artists on his iPod), Wonder and Michael McDonald.

AP

The Black Eyed Peas arrive at The Creative Coalition Gala Benefit in Denver, Wednesday, Aug. 27, 2008.

■ ■ ■

Earlier in the day, Steven Spielberg, who directed a short film on veterans that shown Wednesday at the convention, was spotted entering the Pepsi Center.

Jennifer Lopez spoke at a reception honoring children's rights activist Marian Wright Edelman. Ben Affleck read excerpts from a Howard Zinn book and made an appearance at the city's food bank for America's Second Harvest.

Affleck was joined by his wife, Jennifer Garner, at the book reading at the Starz Green Room across the street from the Pepsi Center. Also participating: Rosario Dawson, Kerry Washington, Taye Diggs, Hill Harper and Josh Brolin.

■ ■ ■

Other celebrity sightings around Denver:

■ The Black Eyed Peas performed a concert at the Fillmore Auditorium for the Creative Coalition. Fergie praised Hillary Rodham Clinton's Tuesday-night speech, saying Clinton "really spoke to me as a woman. And I think she spoke to a lot of people in that way."

■ Politicians including former Virginia Gov. Mark Warner attended a ONE Campaign party featuring a Kanye West performance. Also in attendance: Forest Whitaker, Kal Penn, Jamie Foxx and director Davis Guggenheim.

■ Muhammad Ali sat in the convention audience.

■ Fran Drescher, Ashley Judd and Joy Bryant joined Lopez at the reception honoring Edelman.

■ Hathaway and others gathered at a morning reception honoring Annette Bening for her work narrating the documentary "14 Women," about women in the U.S. Senate.

■ Big Boi of Outkast was at the airport on his way out of town after hosting a Radio One show where he interviewed John Legend, among others.

Valentino walks red carpet for his documentary

VENICE, Italy (AP)—Of all the women Valentino has dressed in his 45-year career—from Jacqueline Kennedy to Mariella Agnelli to Gwyneth Paltrow—one red carpet moment stands out: When Julia Roberts wore a vintage black-and-white Valentino gown when she was awarded her best actress Oscar.

"I have to be very sincere. The person that makes me feel very happy, also because (she) chose vintage, was Julia Roberts in 'Erin Brockovich' when she got the Academy Award," Valentino told a press conference. "I was very excited. I was not in Los Angeles, but I saw on television and I really was excited to see her when she appeared with my dress."

Valentino, who has spent his career dressing the world's most glamorous women for the red carpet, walked it himself Thursday for the Venice Film Festival premiere of "Valentino: The Last Emperor," a documentary by Vanity Fair special correspondent Matt Tyrnauer.

The gala evening premiere held at the famed La Fenice opera house was attended by Valentino muses such as Elizabeth Hurley and Claire Danes. A party was to follow at the Peggy Guggenheim museum.

Tyrnauer followed Valentino around for the two years leading up to the designer's retirement last January, catching him as he created gorgeous gowns for the runway and gradually accepted the idea of retirement.

AP

Designer Valentino, model Eva Herzigova and director Matt Tyrnauer arrive at the premiere of the film Valentino: The Last Emperor at the 65th edition of the Venice Film Festival in Venice, Italy, Thursday, Aug. 28, 2008.

Valentino, who was born Valentino Garavani, said he didn't perform for the cameras or try to hide any aspect of his personality—even when he got into disagreements with his longtime business partner Giancarlo Giammetti.

"When I work and I create, I am not very approachable. To ... know everything I say was being recorded did irritate me," he said.

"The film was showing exactly what I am. There were moments of anger, when somebody says something that I don't like, but I was completely myself from the beginning to the end and nothing was edited."

Tyrnauer praised Valentino and Giammetti for enduring the two years of filming—saying there were very few instances when they asked that the cameras be turned off—and those are included in the film.

"It was amazing to kind of hang out with Valentino and Giancarlo for two years," Tyrnauer said. "They put up with a lot."

Valentino expressed satisfaction with the final product, and said he was full of emotion watching the documentary's premiere Thursday morning, which received a standing ovation. The documentary was shown out of competition.

Valentino said he was never concerned that the film would demystify his world.

"I don't think haute couture will ever really die. It's like a beautiful song, it will be there forever and it will never go out of fashion," he said.

Kitano examines cruel art in Venice entry

VENICE, Italy (AP)—Takeshi Kitano presents a portrait of an artist who sacrifices his family and nearly his own life in pursuit of art in his new film "Achilles and the Tortoise."

The Japanese filmmaker said that while he set out to make a film about "cruel art," he doesn't think an artist needs to make the sacrifices depicted in the movie, making its premiere Thursday at the Venice Film Festival.

"What I was trying to describe was a side effect of art and art as a kind of drug that numbs your senses," said Kitano. "Art might become a drug for an artist. But I am not convinced that it is necessary for all artists."

AP

Japanese director Takeshi Kitano poses during the photo call of his movie 'Akires to kame' (Achilles and the tortoise) at the 65th edition of the Venice Film Festival in Venice, Italy, Thursday, Aug. 28, 2008.

The film's first half depicts the pampered boyhood of Machisu—a name chosen by Kitano because of its similarity in Japanese to the impressionist Matisse. The artistic boy is indulged by his parents, teachers and neighbors as he disappears into his drawing and painting—until his father's suicide after his business fails.

Death shadows Machisu as he is shunted off to an unwilling uncle—his mother commits suicide herself, and a village idiot who is equally obsessive about art is killed—and then onward to his young adulthood where the pursuit of art claims two of his friends. As he seeks success, he loses his childhood joy and freedom of painting, churning out cheap imitations of masters as he tries to follow an art dealer's advice.

The extremes he goes to in the pursuit of art escalate. In one scene, he covers the face of his just-deceased daughter, whom he has always neglected, with lipstick and then tries to make an imprint of it on a handkerchief.

David Duchovny in rehab for sex addiction

LOS ANGELES (AP)—David Duchovny has entered a rehabilitation facility for sex addiction. In a statement released Thursday by his lawyer, Stanton Stein, the actor said he did so voluntarily, adding: "I ask for respect and privacy for my wife and children as we deal with this situation as a family."

The actor's publicist, Flo Grace, confirmed the rehab report, which first appeared on People.com. She and Stein both declined to elaborate further.

Duchovny, 48, plays a sex-obsessed character on the Showtime series "Californication," which earned Emmy nominations for casting and cinematography. The show's second season begins Sept. 28. Showtime had no comment Thursday.

The actor appeared in the film "The X Files: I Want to Believe" earlier this summer. He has been married to actress Tea Leoni since 1997. They have two children.

In this Aug. 2006 file photo, actor David Duchovny arrives at the premiere of "Trust The Man", in New York.

AP

Lindsay Lohan lashes out at father on blog

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Lindsay Lohan had words for her father on her blog.

The 22-year-old actress lashed out at father Michael by calling him a "public embarrassment" and a "bully" in a MySpace blog entry posted Thursday. Earlier in the week, Michael said in an interview with E! that Lohan gal pal Samantha Ronson was "using" his daughter. Lohan's publicist, Leslie Sloane-Zelnik, confirmed the post by Lohan was legitimate.

"If you have something to say to me, say it to my face—that's what I have believed my whole life—don't be a coward and say it to others first, let alone all the media in the world," Lohan wrote. The father and daughter have publicly quarreled for years. Lohan said in the dash-happy blog post that she tried to make things work in hopes "of having a father again" and "wanting things to change" despite what her mother and siblings have gone through with him.

AP

In this Aug. 14, 2008 file photo, actress Lindsay Lohan poses on the press line at the Apple Lounge grand opening in West Hollywood, Calif.

Lohan continued: "Having said that—the people were right, and he is yet to change—but this time, without his daughter by his side—he has become a public embarrassment and a bully—to my family, my coworkers, my friends and a girl that means the world to me (it's obvious who that is)."

The "Mean Girls" star went on to say that she believes her father is addicted to fame, and if he really cared about her, he would respect her wishes. She also said than Ronson and Lohan's mother Dina would never "sell me out." Lohan ended the post by saying that she had a therapist and it's not a cameraman at x17 (the celebrity photo agency and Web site).

In a separate post, Ronson said she was angry when she first heard about Michael's attack on her and called him a man "who is so desperate for attention that he goes to the media whenever possible." Ronson went on to say she felt "no need to publicly defend my role in Lindsay's life—I'm just sorry that she likes me more than him."

After the blog entries were posted Thursday, Michael told OK! magazine in an exclamation point-heavy statement that his concerns about Ronson were all generated by ex-wife Dina, who stars alongside their 14-year-old daughter Ali in the E! reality series "Living Lohan." Michael called Dina a "money-loving, fame-seeking, self-serving deceiver."

"All I want is for Lindsay to be healthy and in a good relationship," he also said in the statement. "I want her to use the gifts she has in the best ways and to help others! I said it from the very beginning: Show me who you walk with and I will tell you who you are! People may deceive us, but our eyes and facts don't! OPEN YOUR EYES!!!"

'Suge' Knight released from Las Vegas jail

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Marion "Suge" Knight has been released from a Las Vegas jail.

The founder of bankrupt Death Row Records posted $19,000 bail Wednesday and promised to appear in Las Vegas Justice Court on Sept. 26 on felony assault and drug charges.

Knight

Police arrested the hip hop mogul on Wednesday morning after officers say they saw him beat his girlfriend while brandishing a knife in a parking lot near the Las Vegas Strip.

The woman was not stabbed but she was treated at a hospital for injuries that were not life-threatening.

Police say Knight had the drugs Ecstasy and hydrocodone when he was arrested.

A Clark County Detention Center clerk says records do not indicate when Knight was released.

Phelps named a VMA presenter

LOS ANGELES (AP)—He does comedy, writes books, and mixes it up with the hottest stars in music and Hollywood. With all this, who needs swimming?

Certainly not Michael Phelps—not anymore, at least. But as a presenter at the 2008 Video Music Awards, all that fresh Olympic bling will certainly help.

The swimmer who took home a record-breaking eight gold medals from the Beijing Games joins Miley Cyrus, Scarlett Johansson, Lindsay Lohan and Ciara as presenters at the Sept. 7 VMAs telecast from Los Angeles. British comedian Russell Brand will host. It's been a busy week for Phelps, who announced he'll write a book about his road to Olympic history (to be released in time for the holidays) and plans to host the season premiere of "Saturday Night Live." On Thursday, Phelps was in New York City, filming a cameo for the HBO series "Entourage."

Phelps

Zac Efron, Vanessa Hudgens, Ashley Tisdale and Corbin Bleu of the "High School Musical" franchise will also present at the VMAs, as will "Twilight" actors Kristen Stewart, Robert Pattinson and Taylor Lautner, MTV said Thursday.

The network also announced performers Katy Perry, T-Pain, Lupe Fiasco and The Ting Tings.

Performers already announced include Rihanna, Pink, Paramore and T.I., who will be making his first appearance at a major awards show since his arrest right before an awards ceremony last year. The Jonas Brothers, Lil Wayne and Kid Rock are also scheduled to do their thing onstage.

Stepmom gives lots of love but doesn't get much in return

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I was raised by a horrible stepmom who made it her purpose in life to make my brother and me miserable. When I became a stepmom, I made it my goal to be the best one I could be, and for the next 15 years was a giving, loving stepmother to both my husband's children.

The problem? They take me for granted! They are not only disrespectful to me, but also to their father, who is a cancer survivor. During the last two years of treatments, I haven't been able to depend on them for anything. At this point I'm so disgusted I couldn't care less if I ever see either of them again.

My husband is torn. He gets upset when I talk about them or mention how they treat us. I'm at my wits' end, and I'm ready to leave. I have stood by him through sickness and hard times. Every time I see a light at the end of the tunnel, his adult kids show up. What should I do?

READY TO GIVE UP IN FLORIDA

DEAR READY TO GIVE UP: Your husband is so emotionally invested in his children that he cannot recognize their shortcomings. Many parents have a similar blind spot, so try not to be too hard on him.

If you love your husband, and his "kids" are so busy they're not around a lot, why sacrifice your marriage? Stop "dissing" his kids, and when they come around stop making yourself so available. Get out of there. Find other things to do. Let your husband have the "pleasure" of entertaining them, and you'll be far less frustrated.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am a 50-year-old daughter of an alcoholic. My stepmother usually tells me when my 88-year-old—but young for his age—father goes into one of his drinking binges.

This time I found him out on the street drunk while she was on a two-week trip with her stepmother. Since she tells me when Dad gets drunk, should I give her the same respect, courtesy or whatever, or should I keep it to myself?

PONDERING IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR PONDERING: By all means tell her what went on. I'm sure it will come as no surprise, and he may have done it to "punish" her for her absence. Alcoholism is a family disease, and I see nothing to be gained by sweeping your father's bender under the rug.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Due to medical problems, I have a large raised scar on my chest. As a teen I used to be really self-conscious about it, but I decided that practically wearing a habit to cover it up is not fair to me.

I get lots of stares, which I don't mind so much when it is a child. One little girl came over, touched it, and asked her mother what it was. It made me smile.

My problem is with teenagers and adults. I would have hoped that by then people would know that staring is not only rude, but uncomfortable for me. Short of wearing nothing but turtlenecks, how do I inform people that I'd prefer to talk to them rather than their forehead?

TIRED OF THE STARING

DEAR TIRED: When people of any age see something unusual, whether it's a piece of jewelry, a dog dressed like a child, a scar, etc., they are curious, and so they look. If their fascination with your scar has distracted someone from the conversation, tell the person you have noticed it and that the staring makes you uncomfortable. It's either that or ... you already know the rest.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $12 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)

Pastimes

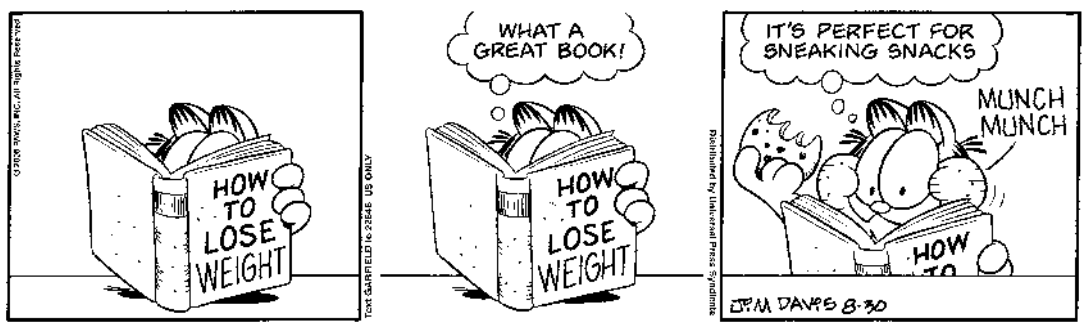
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

DON'T COME IN HERE!
WHY NOT? I'M ROASTING.
YOU'LL GET HAIR IN THE WATER. GO DO SOMETHING ELSE.
HEY! STOP THAT! HEY! HEY!
YOU THINK YOU'VE WON, HUH? WELL, I'M NOT EVEN GOING TO TELL YOU WHAT I DID.
ACKPTH!

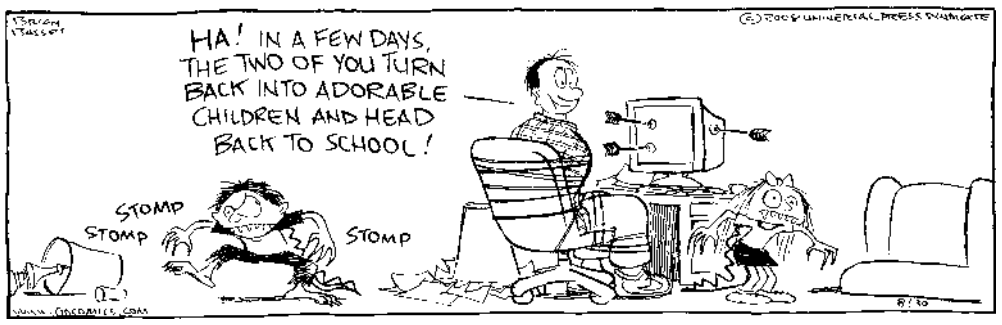
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



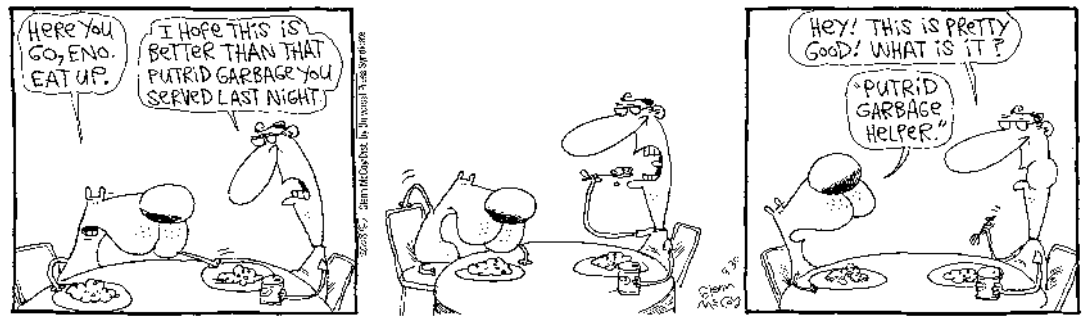
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


Here you go, Eno. Eat up.
I Hope this is better than that putrid garbage you served last night.
Hey! This is pretty good! What is it?
"Putrid garbage helper."

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

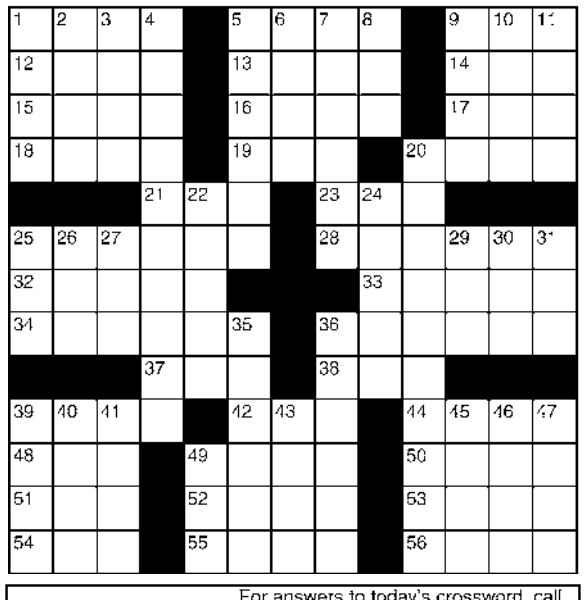
ACROSS
1 Lays down the lawn
5 Hindu royal
9 TV game show, "Cash —"
12 Ten C-notes
13 Comic-strip penguin
14 Indivisible
15 Lends a hand
16 Roman clan
17 Noshed
18 Not-so-ugly Betty
19 Exploit
20 Egress
21 Storm center
23 Lawyers' org.
25 Rubber-necks
28 Bearlike
32 Bamboo eater
33 Say
34 Venom-ous snakes
36 Barcelona bash
37 Genetics abbr.
38 Hostel
39 Upper-case
42 That girl
44 Bob's "Price Is Right" successor
48 Art medium
49 Soothing agent
50 Relaxa-tion
51 Tramcar contents
52 Exam format
53 Houston university
54 Bk. after Job
55 Wild and crazy
56 Coaster

DOWN
1 Attempt
2 Xenia is there
3 Old fogy
4 Larry King trademark
5 Scala-wags
6 Tarzan's clique
7 Alaskan city
8 Foolish sort
9 Wheedle
10 Opposi-tionist
11 Borscht ingredient
20 BBC soap since 1985
22 Long
24 UCLA athlete
25 Figure head? (Abbr.)
26 "Awe-some, dude!"
27 "The upshot being...?"
29 "Monty Python" opener
30 Bottom line
31 History chapter
35 Vast expanse of sand
36 With resolution
39 Henhouse
40 Puts on TV
41 Entreaty
43 Verve
45 Bar
46 Verb suffix meaning "become"
47 Garden intruder
49 Dickens pseudo-nym

Solution time: 27 mins.

L	E	G	■	H	O	W	L	■	F	A	D	E
A	G	O	■	A	L	O	E	■	O	P	E	D
B	O	O	M	M	I	K	E	■	U	S	E	D
■	■	D	E	M	O	■	■	A	R	E	N	A
S	L	Y	L	Y	■	B	E	S	T	■	■	■
C	U	E	D	■	F	A	R	E	H	I	K	E
A	L	A	■	S	A	L	S	A	■	L	C	B
T	U	R	N	P	I	K	E	■	B	L	C	B
■	■	■	A	I	R	S	■	C	O	U	P	S
A	P	A	R	T	■	■	G	A	M	S	■	■
D	O	U	R	■	D	I	R	T	B	I	K	E
O	N	T	O	■	U	N	'	T	■	O	A	T
S	T	O	W	■	E	S	P	Y	■	K	Y	C

Yesterday's answer 8-30



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Andy Roddick, 26; Rich Cronin, 33; Lisa Ling, 35; Cameron Diaz, 36

Happy Birthday: You look, you evaluate and you proceed. That's your way and it will lead to a bright and prosperous future this year. You are willing to work hard and will be able to manipulate others to see things your way. If you are serious about your plans and you work diligently, this can be your year to excel. Your numbers are 7, 12, 18, 21, 39, 48

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): You may be tempted to take on a professional challenge that may not pan out long-term. Weigh all the pros and cons before you decide. Going it alone may take longer, but you will get what you want and the rewards you deserve. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Don't slow down now when you are so close to getting your way. Networking and traveling will pay off. Don't let up or give in to pressure or let your emotional response reveal your position. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): You will be up for a challenge when dealing with friends, relatives and children. Put things in perspective and trust in the person to whom you are closest. Do not give in to anyone putting demands or ultimatums on you. Stick to your plan. ✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Do something to challenge yourself or get involved in a project that will change your surroundings. Don't argue or try to control loved ones. You will do damage to one of your relationships if you are jealous or overbearing. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Take a walk down memory lane or even better, go back and visit some of the places that hold fond memories. Getting together with old friends or reunited with someone you haven't seen in years will do you good and boost your confidence. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Don't meddle in other people's affairs and you will avoid trouble. You will be high strung and this can lead to poor decisions. Get all the facts before you get involved in something that may be dubious in nature. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Someone will come to your aid. Listen to the voice of experience and make the changes suggested. Don't overspend or overindulge because you aren't happy. Fix whatever is wrong instead of masking it. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): By taking a practical approach, you will prove your ability to be successful. There will be people who want to take advantage of you. Scrutinize any offers that come in and consider if you really need help at this stage of the game. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Don't take a risk. Someone may try to dismantle your plans. Be prepared to do what you must to keep things the same. Involvement with someone you work with could cause anxiety. ✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Take better care of you. Look at the big picture and set up a budget, fitness regime and nutritional diet. Getting back on track mentally, physically and financially will be your greatest asset. Rid yourself of bad influences. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Financial gain is evident. Get involved in an activity that will allow you to improve and will enable you to meet people who can complement you. Don't overspend. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Don't give in to anyone pushing you to make a decision. If you are uncertain, don't make a move or a promise. A minor setback in plans can be expected but don't let it ruin a good time. Work around whatever occurs. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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Birthday Baby: You are a crusader and a good friend, companion and colleague. You strive to make everyone look good and to lead others in the right direction. You are giving, open and abundantly generous.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	3					4		
		2	1	6				
	5					7	2	6
							6	
	6	5		4		2	3	
	7							
7	8	1					9	
				2	5	8		
		9					4	

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 8/30

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

4	3	8	7	5	1	2	9	6
9	1	2	3	6	4	7	8	5
7	5	6	8	9	2	3	1	4
3	2	7	5	1	8	6	4	9
5	4	1	9	7	6	8	2	3
6	8	9	2	4	3	1	5	7
1	7	5	6	2	9	4	3	8
2	9	3	4	8	7	5	6	1
8	6	4	1	3	5	9	7	2

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 8/29

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword

EURAIL PASS Solution: 8 letters

R	D	B	S	Y	A	D	I	V	E	R	S	I	T	Y
Y	E	A	S	O	U	V	E	N	I	R	S	E	N	R
A	S	S	M	G	E	V	I	S	N	E	T	X	E	E
W	T	I	E	A	N	I	A	R	T	D	N	P	M	N
L	I	C	(E)	R	P	I	R	T	E	L	E	E	E	E
I	N	(T)	Y	F	V	S	N	T	E	A	M	R	T	C
A	(A)	A	H	T	A	A	I	N	V	C	E	I	I	S
(R)	T	R	N	G	L	M	T	I	A	O	L	E	C	R
S	I	I	E	T	I	A	N	I	S	L	P	N	X	O
S	O	L	A	L	D	N	Y	O	O	S	P	C	E	T
P	N	E	N	U	A	E	R	C	I	N	U	E	T	I
O	S	U	L	X	T	X	I	E	N	T	S	E	R	S
T	B	T	Y	R	I	P	X	E	V	E	A	L	A	I
S	E	L	A	N	O	I	G	E	R	O	G	T	T	V
N	O	I	T	A	N	I	B	M	O	C	L	A	S	S

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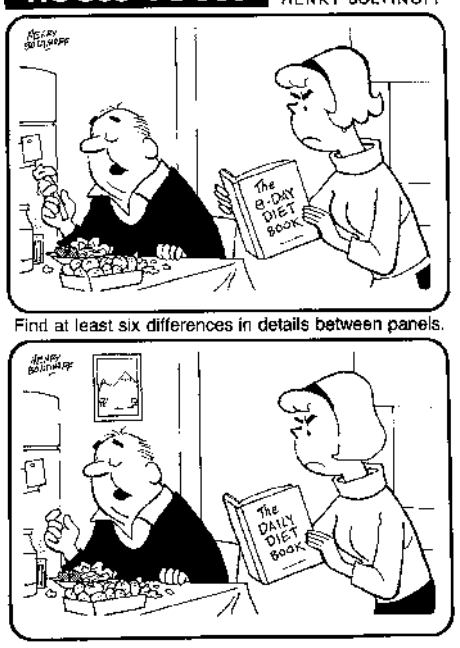
Adult, Agency, Basic, Class, Combination, Days, Destinations, Diversity, Excitement, Experience, Expiry, Extensive, Issue, Local, Maps, Overnight, Planning, Point, Railway, Rate, Regional, Relax, Reservations, Save, Scenery, Seat, Souvenirs, Spots, Start, Station, Stay, Supplements, Train, Trip, Unlimited, Validation, Visitors

Yesterday's Answer: Annoying

Wonderword, Universal Press Syndicate, 4520 Main St., Kansas City, MO 64111 or call toll-free 1-800-255-0135 ext. 7505. Order online at upuzzles.com

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

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Differences: 1. Book title is different. 2. Woman's hairdo has changed. 3. Picture is added to wall. 4. Man's fork's gone. 5. Woman's apron is missing. 6. Woman's right hand is hidden.

Wishing Well®

2	4	6	4	2	8	3	6	8	4	6	7	8
Y	F	S	A	O	Y	P	E	O	M	C	S	U
5	3	7	8	2	4	3	4	6	3	5	7	5
L	R	E	A	U	I	O	L	U	M	E	C	A
7	5	2	3	8	4	3	8	3	4	2	3	6
R	D	R	O	R	Y	T	E	I	V	E	O	R
3	6	7	4	3	5	7	2	4	8	4	2	4
N	E	E	I	A	T	T	C	S	C	I	E	T
2	5	4	3	5	6	2	5	7	3	6	3	2
I	H	S	T	E	L	V	W	S	W	O	O	E
5	3	5	7	2	7	2	3	7	6	2	7	8
A	R	Y	A	P	R	R	K	E	V	I	S	O
7	6	8	2	8	7	8	7	8	7	2	8	7
H	E	N	Z	T	A	E	R	N	E	E	T	D

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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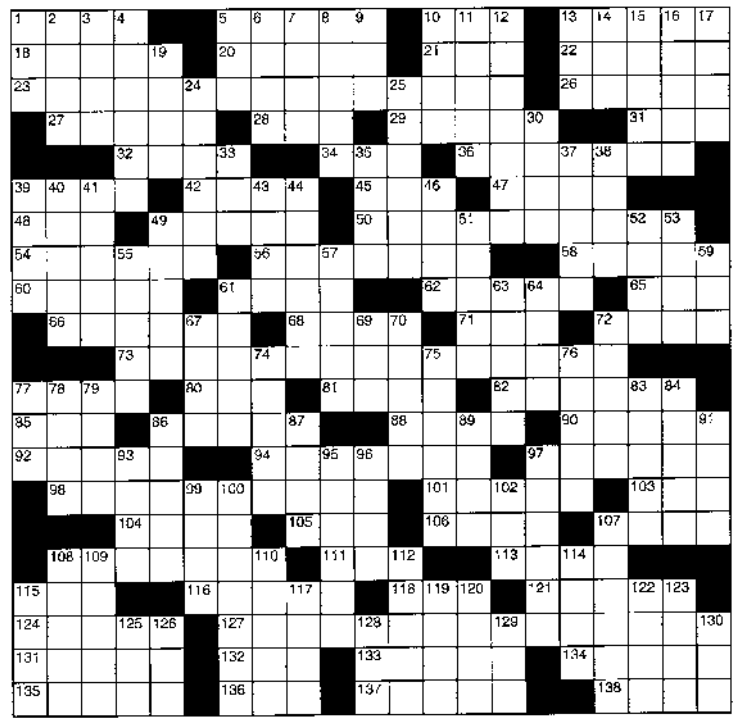
Super Crossword — FINISH LINE

ACROSS
1 Thieves
5 Dress down
10 Accomplished
13 English explorer
18 French spa
20 Home on high
21 A mean Amin
22 "Pygmalion" role
23 Start of a remark by Gene Perret
26 On the up and up
27 Director Sergio
28 Grazing ground
29 Overact
31 Have a mortgage
32 Become engaged?
34 EMT's skill
36 "La Boheme" girl
39 Depravity
42 Heavy metal instrument?
45 Mellow
47 Rajasthani rhythm
48 Coach Parseghian
49 Kayak commander
50 Part 2 of remark
54 Verbal explosion
56 Pittsburgh player
58 Skirt feature
60 Tangle
61 "May I interrupt?"
62 Vision
65 Cookbook phrase
66 Impressive lobby
68 Catches cod
71 Runner Sebastian
72 Karras or Haley
73 Part 3 of remark
77 Suggestive
80 — Na Na
81 Beloved
82 Type of aircraft
85 Maestro de Waart
86 Fusillade
88 Khartoum's river
90 Hopeless case
92 Jeeves or Passe-partout
94 Focused
97 Watchful city?
98 Part 4 of remark
101 Perfect
103 One of the Marches
104 Anesthetize
105 Fitting
106 Manuscript enc.
107 Goofy Gomer
108 Field event
111 "— the fields we go . . ."
113 Ballet movement
115 Overwhelm
116 Recruit personnel
118 Good times
121 Sari site
124 Rent
127 End of remark
131 Party present
132 Myriads of moons
133 "Midnight at the —" ('74 hit)
134 "— Gay"
135 Fight site
136 Room for relaxing
137 Marine leader?
138 Hardware item

DOWN
1 Sports official
2 Face shape
3 Ill temper
4 She knew how to get a head
5 Droop
6 Do overhead plastering
7 Sarah — Jewett
8 Pale purple
9 "— volente"
10 "Carpe —"
11 Turn of phrase
12 Bother
13 "Fantasia" frame
14 Fish-and-chips accompaniment
15 Chauvinist
16 Conductor Seiji
17 Yarn
19 Muse count
24 Snuggle up
25 "The Aeneid" author
30 Jacob's twin
33 Tint
35 "— Rider" ('85 film)
37 Neighbor of Libya
38 Kite part
39 Places to dye
40 One of "The Three Sisters"
41 Jeweler's weight
43 41st or 43rd President
44 Be there
46 Gets by, with "out"
49 Impromptu
51 Author Jong
52 Patricia of "Hud"
53 Wild wind
55 Deck out
57 Edit a text
59 Duty
61 Mensch title character
63 Have thirds and fourths?
64 Cure
67 — Minor
69 Peg for Palmer
70 Footballer Lynn
72 Option
74 Maritime abbr.
75 Turning point
76 Actor Bruce
77 Part of IRS
78 Eliot's "— Bede"
79 Fountain order
83 Foe
84 Party hearty
86 Walk like a rooster
87 Recruit-to-be
89 Helen of Troy's mom
91 Wrath
93 Cubist Rubik?
95 Warning
96 Tivoli's Villa d'—
97 Ancient tongue
99 Little devils
100 Bordered on
102 Kreskin's letters
107 Know-it-all
108 Vow
109 Throw forcefully
110 Resort lake
112 Bucolic
114 Memo start
115 — Romeo
117 Actress Sherilyn
119 "Yo!" at the library
120 Move a bit
122 "Blame — the Bossa Nova" ('63 hit)
123 Bill of Rights grp.
125 Every guy is one
126 Cy Young stat
128 Debtor's letters
129 Govt. agency
130 Beaver or beret



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Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

1. LANGUAGE: What is another name for a prestidigitator?
2. SCIENCE: What is studied in the science of speleology?
3. MOVIES: Who had the starring role in "Mr. Deeds Goes to Town"?
4. PRESIDENTS: Which president banned segregation in the armed forces?
5. FOOD: What is the main ingredient in sauerkraut?
6. HISTORY: Which Mexican revolutionary said, "It is better to die on your feet than live on your knees."
7. COMICS: Who was editor of The Daily Planet in "Superman" comics?
8. GEOGRAPHY: What body of water lies between the island of Sardinia and mainland Italy?
9. PERSONALITIES: What is Yogi Berra's real name?
10. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Which news anchor wrote the book "The Camera Never Blinks"?

Answers

1. Magician
2. Caves
3. Gary Cooper
4. Harry Truman in 1948
5. Cabbage
6. Emiliano Zapata
7. Perry White
8. Tyrrhenian Sea
9. Lawrence Peter Berra
10. Dan Rather

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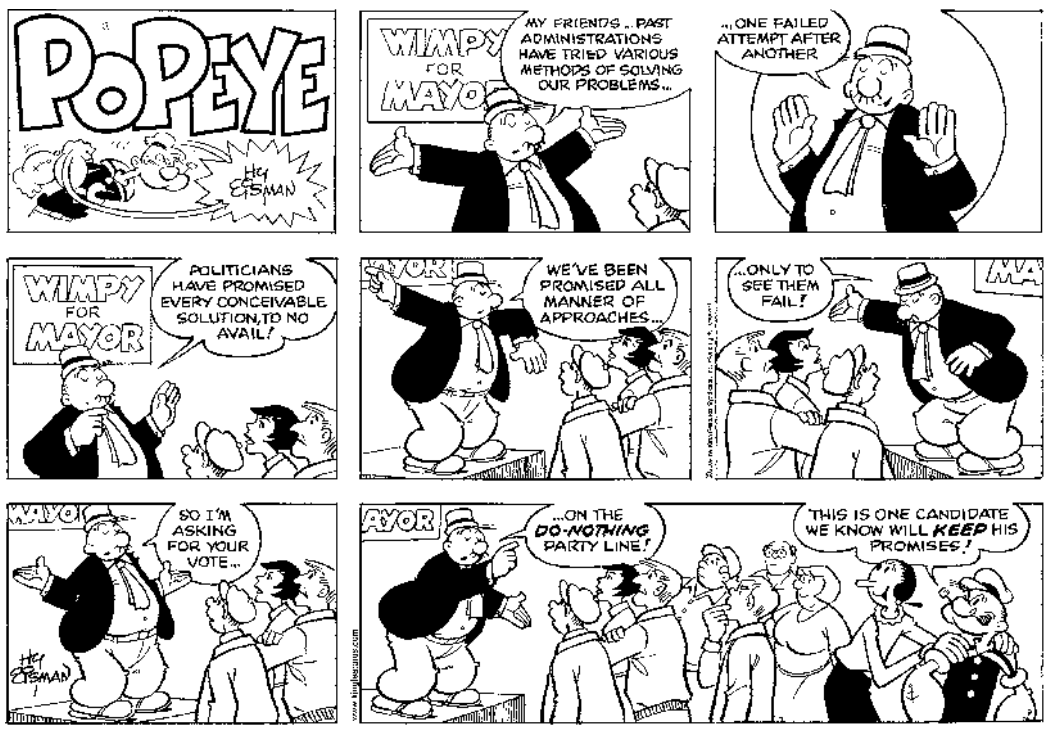
Saturday's Answers


POPEYE
Hy EISMAN
WIMPY FOR MAYOR
MY FRIENDS .. PAST ADMINISTRATIONS HAVE TRIED VARIOUS METHODS OF SOLVING OUR PROBLEMS...
...ONE FAILED ATTEMPT AFTER ANOTHER
POLITICIANS HAVE PROMISED EVERY CONCEIVABLE SOLUTION, TO NO AVAIL!
WE'VE BEEN PROMISED ALL MANNER OF APPROACHES...
...ONLY TO SEE THEM FAIL!
SO I'M ASKING FOR YOUR VOTE...
...ON THE DO-NOTHING PARTY LINE!
THIS IS ONE CANDIDATE WE KNOW WILL KEEP HIS PROMISES!

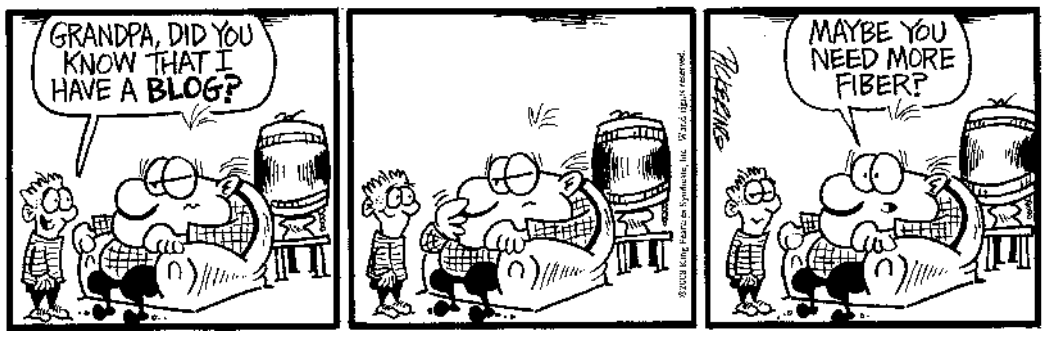
Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps

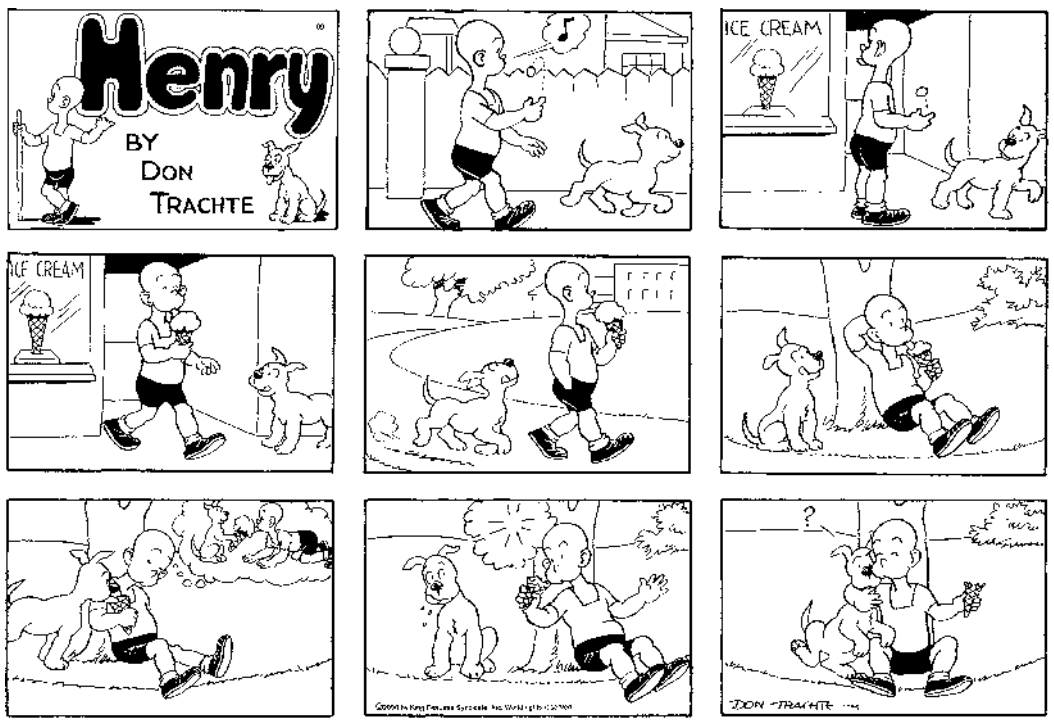
WHEN I WAS YOUR AGE ALL I WANTED WAS TO BE AN ADULT.
WELL, AT MY AGE I JUST WISH I COULD BE A KID AGAIN.
I'M HAVING MY FIRST IDENTITY CRISES!

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



MARK TRAIL
THE BULL-HORN PLANT OF CENTRAL AMERICA AND MEXICO HARBORS A SPECIES OF ANT WITH A STING MORE PAINFUL THAN ANY OF THE FIERCER WASPS
USUALLY, EVERY THORN ON THE ACACIA TREE IS OCCUPIED BY THE ANTS
ANTS, LIKE MANY OF THE OTHER INHABITANTS OF THE TROPICAL FOREST, HAVE ADAPTED TO LIFE IN THE TREETOPS
THE LARGE PAIRED HORNS OF THE BULL-HORN ACACIA ARE HOLLOWED OUT BY ANTS FOR LIVING QUARTERS
THESE PUGNACIOUS STINGING CREATURES PAY BOARD BY ATTACKING MAN, ANIMAL OR INSECT THAT DISTURBS THE TREE
THEY EVEN NIP OFF OTHER PLANTS WHICH SPROUT NEAR THEIR HOST
TO FEED ITS ANT WARRIORS, THE BULL-HORN HAS SUGAR-PRODUCING NECTAR GLANDS AND PROTEIN-RICH GROWTHS ON THE TIPS OF ITS LEAFLETS
JACK ELROD
THESE TWO UNRELATED LIFE FORMS, THE ANTS AND THE TREES, ARE SO DEPENDENT ON EACH OTHER THAT NEITHER ONE APPARENTLY SURVIVES FOR LONG WITHOUT THE OTHER



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235- NEWS

Top-seeded Ivanovic loses in huge upset

NEW YORK (AP)—Even for the mathematics major from Clemson, it just didn't add up: How could someone who recently struggled so badly she wanted to quit tennis stay on the court with the No. 1 player in the world?

Ana Ivanovic probably wondered the same thing.

In one of the biggest upsets in the sport's history, the top-seeded Ivanovic was ousted from the U.S. Open, stunned by 188th-ranked Julie Coin 6-3, 4-6, 6-3 in the second round Thursday.

"Obviously, if you would ask me at the moment if I'm playing like a No. 1, probably not," Ivanovic said. "It's very frustrating because I know I can play so much better."

Never before in the Open era that began in 1968 had the No. 1 woman lost this early in the tournament. Plus, all the favorites had been breezing at Flushing Meadows.

The French Open champion seemed to be rallying in the third set when Coin suddenly recovered to win 10 straight points. The 25-year-old French math whiz screamed when Ivanovic's last shot sailed out, then hopped for joy and hit an extra ball high into the stands.

"I don't know how I'm going to sleep tonight," Coin said. "I don't know when I will realize everything."

Even after Ivanovic struggled in the first round with an injured right thumb that limited her practice time, there was no way to see this coming.

Coin spent much of the year playing in minor league events and nearly got knocked out of the qualifying event to merely make it into the Open. She recently played so poorly she thought about giving up the sport and relying on her degree.

"I was thinking, 'Am I really made to play tennis?'" she said.

Ivanovic quickly gathered her gear and left the court, her hopes of another Grand Slam championship dashed. She smiled after the match, simply happy to be pain-free, and did not appear upset by the upset.

"I think what I experienced so far is girls, when they play against higher-ranked players, they have nothing to lose, so they go for their shots," she said. "Many times they play matches of their life. Not only in women's tennis, also in men's."

Still, Coin couldn't have figured on it. Asked whether she'd thought such a win was possible, she gave a direct, honest answer.

"No," she said.

And when did she believe it might happen?

"I guess when it was over," she told the crowd at Arthur Ashe Stadium, drawing a huge ovation.

If there was any suspicion that Coin was wavering, she steadied herself by rallying in the third set. It was Ivanovic who looked jittery, hitting shots directly into the net or way out.

AP

Julie Coin, of France, celebrates her 6-3, 4-6, 6-3 victory over top-seeded Ana Ivanovic, of Serbia, in a U.S. Open tennis tournament match in New York, Thursday, Aug. 28, 2008.

Top-seeded Rafael Nadal avoided a similar fate on the men's side, beating Ryler De Heart 6-1, 6-2, 6-4.

Venus Williams and sister Serena won earlier in the day. James Blake, David Ferrer, Andy Murray and Dinara Safina joined them in moving into the third round. No. 14 Ivo Karlovic posted the stat of the day while beating Florent Serra in straight sets—he finished ahead in aces 42-0.

The Ivanovic-Coin match was originally scheduled for the smaller Louis Armstrong Stadium, but was moved to the main Ashe stage to give the crowd a treat. The fans hardly knew what really was in store.

Tentative at times, Ivanovic seemed to regain her edge midway through third set. She led 40-0 in the fifth game and was about to break Coin's serve when suddenly the momentum shifted.

Coin came back to hold, starting her decisive streak.

Ivanovic tried to stave off Coin in the final game, but it was too late for the 20-year-old Serbian star. Coin won on her third match point—quite a result for someone playing in her first tour-level event.

Coin had tried to qualify for the Australian Open, French Open and Wimbledon and never made any of them. And she certainly wasn't anything bankable going into this match—she'd earned less than $100,000 lifetime as a pro, and was facing someone who'd won nearly $6 million.

Next up for Coin in the third round is No. 32 Amelie Mauresmo, who beat Kaia Kanepi 2-6, 6-4, 6-0. Coin and Mauresmo once played at the same club near Paris and shared the same coach, yet though don't know each other well.

"I know she was No. 1," Coin said.

Going into this Open, Ivanovic had played only two matches since Wimbledon while her thumb healed. The injury forced her to withdraw from the Olympics before they began, limited her practice time and sent her from Beijing to Australia for treatment.

Fourth-seeded Serena Williams routed Elena Vesnina 6-1, 6-1 and seventh-seeded Venus Williams overwhelmed Rossana de Los Rios 6-0, 6-3 in only 59 minutes.

"I'm very satisfied so far, the way it's gone," Williams said.

Venus Williams breezed past an opponent ranked 117th. After teaming with her sister to win Olympic gold in doubles, she stayed on course to play Serena in the quarterfinals here.

"Whichever way the draw goes, whichever way the matches go, as long as hopefully it's a win for me, I'm pretty happy about it," she said.

Williams is the last woman to win consecutive championships at the U.S. Open, but hasn't taken the title since 2001.

"Oh yes, I remember. I won't forget, but I'd like to have a more recent memory as of, like, '08," she said. "Kind of overdue."

Blake advanced when Steve Darcis pulled out because of a bad lower back. Seeded ninth and coming off a tough, five-set match in the first round, Blake lost the first set 4-6, then won 6-3 and was ahead 1-0 when Darcis retired.

NFL clears Pacman to play for Cowboys

IRVING, Texas (AP)—Now that Adam "Pacman" Jones is really back in the NFL, he insists he will try to do everything he can to stay there.

The cornerback-kick returner was fully reinstated Thursday from his 17-month NFL suspension, which followed an accumulation of arrests and legal problems, and is clear to play for the Dallas Cowboys during the regular season.

"I am fully a Dallas Cowboy," Jones proclaimed before the last preseason game. "I don't have it lingering over my head, will he get reinstated, will he not get reinstated. I just have to keep myself out of bad situations like I have been doing the last six or seven months."

Since being cleared almost three months ago by commissioner Roger Goodell to practice with the Cowboys, Jones had repeatedly expressed confidence that he would be reinstated for the season and said he was doing everything expected of him.

Still, there was a sense of relief when he finally received the official news—in a phone call while walking in a parking lot.

"I did scream," Jones said. "Immediately I called my mom, because I've been beating myself up, but my mom has been through this roller-coaster with me."

Jones, acquired by Dallas from Tennessee, has been arrested six times and involved in a dozen incidents requiring police intervention since the Titans drafted him in the first round in 2005. That includes his connection to a shooting at a Las Vegas strip club. His last NFL game was Dec. 31, 2006.

Jones was suspended in April 2007 and missed all last season with the Titans. He was traded to Dallas in April, then allowed in June by Goodell to join the team in training camp and preseason games.

Goodell, however, was still waiting to decide whether to let Jones play in the regular season. That news came hours before Dallas' final preseason game against Minnesota, when Jones and the expected Cowboys starters didn't even play. Jones wore his No. 21 jersey and shorts on the sideline.

"Adam has worked hard to get to this point, but he also knows that there is still a lot of work ahead of him," Cowboys owner Jerry Jones said. "He is fully aware of the opportunity that he has been given, and he knows that this is an ongoing process."

NFL spokesman Greg Aiello wrote in an e-mail that Goodell wouldn't have a comment Thursday regarding the reinstatement.

Jones said he spoke to Aiello, but not the commissioner. The cornerback said he got congratulatory text messages from most of his teammates once word of his reinstatement spread.

There are past mistakes that Jones knows he can't repeat, especially off the field.

"I have to conduct myself like an NFL player to make sure none of these actions come again," Jones said. "I work hard every day to make sure I don't make the same mistakes. Can I say I would never ever make the same mistakes? No, I can't say that. I'll make sure I put myself in way better situations than I have put myself in the past."

Jones said that includes "surrounding myself around the right people and staying out of gentlemen's clubs, having a great relationship with God and spending more time with my family."

Two weeks ago, Jones sent a letter to Goodell asking to be cleared for the regular season, and saying he would stay out of trouble.

"I think from the beginning there were a lot of critics saying that this couldn't be done, that he couldn't turn his life around," said Manny Arora, Jones' agent and attorney. "I'm very happy for Adam. He's proven everyone wrong. He's got a very bright personal and professional future."

Jones played in the first three preseason games, making his first start for the Cowboys last Friday. He was at left corner in place of injured Pro Bowler Terence Newman after rookie Mike Jenkins started the first two games. Jones had eight tackles and a pass deflection in those three games.

Newman (groin) is expected to be back for the Sept. 7 opener at Cleveland, but Jones will still be a prominent player on passing downs and special teams. Jones had punt returns of 18 and 24 yards during the preseason, and coach Wade Phillips said this week that he was considering Jones for kickoff returns because of injuries in that spot.

The Cowboys had been operating under the assumption that Jones would indeed be reinstated for the season. Jones' involvement in different schemes increased throughout camp as he got comfortable in the system.

After Jones first joined the team for practice in June, he said he had owned up to his bad decisions and was focused on the future and getting back into the game and more than a year off the field.

Jones doesn't want to mess up now.

"I've been waiting for this time for a long time, but it's not like we won a Super Bowl," he said.

Peyton takes knee out of question by practicing

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—More than a month after having knee surgery and enduring weeks of rampant speculation about whether the injury was worse than first feared, two-time league MVP Peyton Manning finally provided his doubters with one emphatic answer Tuesday: He's back, right on schedule.

"This is a significant step for me to get back out on the practice field," Manning said before throwing and running with teammates. "If things go well, as we expect they will, then I hope to be full go next week and ready for the season opener."

Manning will be limited in practice initially after being activated from the physically unable to perform list.

Coach Tony Dungy said the Colts will be cautious with the franchise quarterback during this short week - Indy played Buffalo on Sunday night and faces Cincinnati on Thursday—before giving him a full complement of snaps next week.

"We're going to monitor him and (rookie tight end) Tom Santi, who will start practicing today," Dungy said. "So we do have a pitch count on those guys."

It's been a crazy month for Manning, the Colts' iron man who has never missed a start in his 10-year NFL career.

He was instructed by doctors not to report to training camp with his teammates July 24, 10 days after having surgery to remove an infected bursa sac from the left knee. Team officials said it would take Manning four to six weeks to recover, and the six-week anniversary came Monday when the Colts did not practice.

Still, local radio talk shows, bloggers and fans continually questioned Manning's whereabouts and readiness even after Dungy said July 29 that Manning had arrived in Terre Haute, Ind., the Colts' training camp site.

When Manning didn't appear at any practices or games, the doubts increased. A local television station ran what appeared to be a cell phone photo of Manning wearing a brace on his right knee—a photo Manning later called not true. Late last week, a national blogger suggested Manning had a second surgical procedure on the right knee, something Manning would not confirm Tuesday.

Ramirez's grand slam sparks Cubs comeback win over Phils

CHICAGO (AP)—Aramis Ramirez's grand slam capped a five-run eighth inning as the Chicago Cubs rallied for a dramatic 6-4 victory over the Philadelphia Phillies and their sixth straight win in the National League on Thursday.

Behind a strong performance from Cole Hamels, Philadelphia had a 4-1 lead heading into the eighth. Hamels had given up just a run and five hits in seven strong innings before the Phillies' bullpen collapsed.

Pinch-hitter Mike Fontenot homered leading off the eighth to make it 4-2, and Ramirez sent the roaring 40,362 fans at Wrigley Field into a tizzy when he drove reliever Chad Durbin's pitch into the center field bleachers to complete the comeback.

AP

Chicago Cubs' Aramis Ramirez, second from right, celebrates with teammates Ryan Theriot(2), Alfonso Soriano(12) and Geovany Soto after hitting a grand slam against the Philadelphia Phillies during the eighth inning of a baseball game Thursday, Aug. 28, 2008, in Chicago.

Nationals 11, Dodgers 2

At Washington, Cristian Guzman hit for the cycle and Elijah Dukes had two home runs, helping Washington romp over struggling Los Angeles.

The Dodgers have lost seven straight, and their nine consecutive road losses are the most since dropping 11 in a row in June 1992.

Guzman finished the cycle with a RBI triple in the eighth inning off reliever Joe Beimel. Guzman hit a solo homer to start a five-run first inning for Washington. The Nationals' shortstop singled and was thrown out trying to stretch the hit into a double in the second inning, and had a run-scoring double in the sixth.

Dukes hit a three-run homer in the first and added a solo shot in the seventh for his first career multihomer game.

Astros 3, Reds 2

At Houston, Ty Wigginton homered twice off Aaron Harang, Brandon Backe was sharp into the seventh and Houston beat Cincinnati for the 10th time in 12 meetings this season.

Humberto Quintero added a solo shot to help the Astros.

Backe (9-12) conceded six hits and struck out six in 6 2-3 innings, while Harang (4-14) matched a season high with nine strikeouts, but lost for the fifth time in six decisions. His 29 homers allowed are the most by a Reds' pitcher this season.

Braves 4, Marlins 2

At Atlanta, Brian McCann hit a three-run homer, Charlie Morton finally figured out how to pitch at home and Atlanta beat slumping Florida.

The Marlins are 10-15 in August and haven't won two games in a row this month.

Morton (4-8) had been 0-6 with an 8.18 ERA this season at Turner Field, but the rookie right-hander went six innings and allowed only four hits and two runs.

Anibal Sanchez (2-3) gave up five runs in four innings.

Yankees 3, Red Sox 2

At New York, Jason Giambi came off the bench to hit a tying home run in the seventh inning and the winning single in the ninth for the New York Yankees to beat the Boston Red Sox in the American League.

Desperate to get back in the playoff race, New York salvaged the finale of a three-game series and won Boston's final regular-season game at Yankee Stadium.

Mariano Rivera (5-5) entered a tie game in the eighth and pitched 1 1-3 hitless innings for the win, helping the Yankees overcome another poor performance by Alex Rodriguez.

Rested against lefty Jon Lester, Giambi pinch hit with two outs in the seventh and connected for a two-run homer off Hideki Okajima that tied the score 2-all. Justin Masterson (4-4) loaded the bases in the ninth, and Giambi lined Jonathan Papelbon's 0-2 pitch, driving in pinch-runner Brett Gardner with the winning run.

Rays 3, Blue Jays 2

At St. Petersburg, Florida, Edwin Jackson took a shutout into the eighth inning, Cliff Floyd and Willy Aybar each homered and the Rays guaranteed they will lose no worse than they win for the first time in franchise history.

Tampa Bay, 81-51 and an AL-best 49-19 at home, is 11-1-0 in series play since the All-Star break.

Jackson (11-8) gave up one run and six hits over seven-plus innings.

Floyd put Tampa Bay up 2-0 with a first-inning sacrifice fly and a solo homer in the third, and Tampa Bay took a 3-0 lead when Aybar homered off Jesse Litsch (9-8) in the sixth. Aybar, who entered in an 1-for-16 slide, had three hits in four at-bats.

Angels 7, Rangers 5

At Anaheim, California, pinch-hitter Juan Rivera doubled off the wall in right-center to drive in three runs in a five-run eighth inning and help Los Angeles Angels rally to a win over Texas.

The Angels' Jon Garland (12-8) pitched eight innings, allowing five runs and eight hits. He struck out three and walked one. Francisco Rodriguez pitched the ninth for his 51st save in 56 chances, six saves short of Bobby Thigpen's major league record set in 1990.

Jamey Wright (6-6) replaced starter Brandon McCarthy to start the eighth with the Rangers leading 5-2. Wright allowed two singles, two walks, and was charged with four runs.

Athletics 3, Twins 2

At Oakland, California, pinch-hitter Kurt Suzuki doubled in the winning run with one out in the ninth inning to give Oakland a win over Minnesota and back-to-back victories for first time since July 10-11.

Joey Devine (4-0) pitched the eighth to pick up the victory for the A's, who went 40 games without a winning streak. Suzuki's double marked Oakland's ninth walkoff hit of the season and just the 11th victory since the All-Star break for the hapless A's.

Ryan Sweeney led off the ninth with a single off loser Craig Breslow (0-2), then moved to second on Daric Barton's sacrifice. Suzuki hit a 3-1 pitch from Jesse Crain off the wall in left-center.

Lefty trying to get his game right

NORTON, Mass. (AP)—Phil Mickelson's star presence at the Deutsche Bank Championship was evident Thursday by the company he kept at the TPC Boston.

He played the pro-am with tournament host Seth Waugh, the CEO of Deutsche Bank Americas; New York mayor Michael Bloomberg and New England Patriots owner Bob Kraft. Such is the VIP treatment typically afforded the highest-ranked player in the field.

FedEx Cup playoff standings aside, that honor still falls to Mickelson.

He is No. 2 in the world ranking, although it's easy to forget that. Because while Tiger Woods has been out of sight for two months after his season-ending knee surgery, Mickelson at times has been MIA.

Some thought he would take advantage of Woods' absence by piling up victories, perhaps another major or two, and giving himself a chance to win the money title or PGA Tour player of the year for the first time in his career.

But it hasn't worked out that way.

Mickelson has played four times with only one serious chance at winning, when he had a one-shot lead until bogeys on three of the last four holes at Firestone to tie for fourth. He had to rally to make the weekend at the British Open, was steady but not spectacular in his tie for seventh at the PGA Championship and opened the PGA Tour Playoffs for the FedEx Cup last week with a tie for 19th.

"I've played the same way I've played throughout the year," Mickelson said. "I just haven't been scoring the way I would like. Even though I feel like I'm playing better, the little shots around the greens have cost me. But I'm starting to get that turned around, and I expect to have a much better week."

By most standards, Mickelson has had a good year. He won at Riviera and Colonial, and he is third on the money list, a little more than $1 million behind Woods. With three more $7 million events, a money title is not out of reach.

This would be a good place to turn it around, even if the cast of characters has changed.

A year ago, Mickelson surged into FedEx Cup contention with perhaps the most exciting playoff event at the Deutsche Bank Championship. He played the first two rounds with Woods and Vijay Singh, then hooked up with Woods in the final round and closed with a 66 and beat Woods and two others by two shots.

Asked how he remembered last year, Mickelson broke up the room by saying only, "Very fondly."

"It was a fun tournament last year, and I loved the opportunity to have won the tournament," he said. "But I also love the way it happened, with the opportunity to play three rounds with Tiger."

Woods hasn't played since winning the U.S. Open in a playoff, and the tour has had a taste of life without the world's most famous athletes. Attendance has been noticeably down in recent events, and television ratings have plunged, as to be expected.

Someone asked Mickelson if he wondered what golf would be like if Woods wasn't around. He figured he would be No. 1 in the world and "I'd be making half as much as I am now."

That was a reference to Woods being responsible for such big purses on tour.

"I'm very thankful he's in our sport, and he's had the success and the charisma and the lure to attract corporate America, as well as fans, to the game," he said.

Interest now is driven by a slow elimination amid volatile change in the standings as the FedEx Cup heads to a conclusion next month with $10 million going to the winner.

Singh took over the lead with a victory at The Barclays last week, while the two guys he beat in the playoff at Ridgewood—Sergio Garcia and Kevin Sutherland—are right behind.

Mickelson is at No. 4, and feeling good vibes from the TPC Boston, is hopeful of making a move.

There was a fun moment on the practice range after the pro-am that showed where his priorities are. His caddie, Jim "Bones" Mackay was looking for the perfect spot on the range for Lefty to practice, off to the side at an angle where the light wind was directly into them.

"This OK?" Mackay said when Mickelson arrived.

"Oh, yeah. Hanging lie. Sidehill. Yeah, that's perfect," Mickelson said in mock sarcasm.

"You're left-handed," Mackay replied. "You know that, right? You are playing left-handed this week, aren't you?"

Mickelson ended the good-natured exchange by saying, "I'm going to go chip a few."

He spent the next several minutes chipping from various points around a practice green, feeling as though that element of his game—even Woods believes he has the best short game in golf—has been hurting him.

"I feel like I'm hitting the ball pretty good," Mickelson said. "The key is going to be—again—scoring, getting up-and-down around the greens that I miss and getting those birdie putts to drop."

As much focus as there is at the top, equally important this week is the bottom. The second round of the playoffs is for the top 120 players, with only 70 advancing to the third round next week in St. Louis for the BMW Championship.

Lee Janzen is in a familiar spot.

He started these playoffs in the last position, at No. 144, and again is essentially in last place at No. 119 because Alex Cejka withdrew with injury.

Oscar confirms Pacquiao bout, bags retirement talk

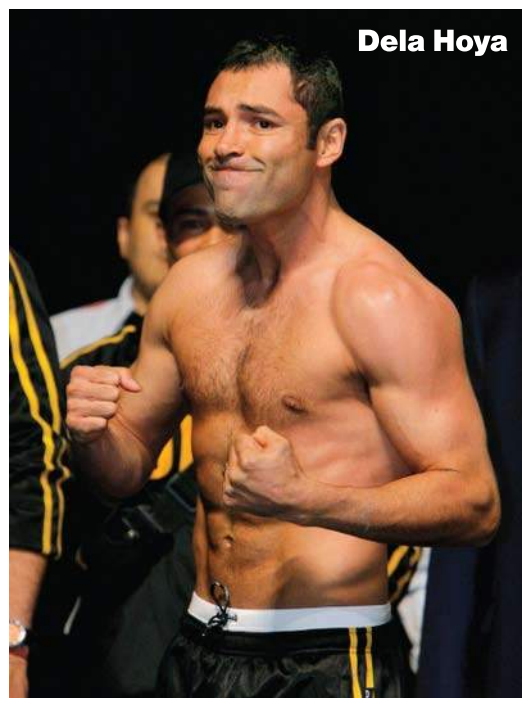
By GREG BEACHAM
AP SPORTS WRITER

Oscar De La Hoya finally has an opponent for his farewell fight—only the Golden Boy's tantalizing matchup with Manny Pacquiao might not be his final bout after all.

De La Hoya and Pacquiao have confirmed their plan to meet Dec. 6 in Las Vegas, matching the most popular star in boxing with arguably the sport's best pound-for-pound fighter.

After Pacquiao, the dynamic Filipino lightweight, agreed to move up 12 pounds to welterweight, De La Hoya inked a deal for what's certain to be boxing's most lucrative bout since his split-decision loss last year to Floyd Mayweather Jr. in the richest fight in boxing history.

Yet De La Hoya (39-5-0, 30 KOs) changed the fight's stakes Thursday when he acknowledged he wasn't sure he'll retire afterward. De La Hoya repeatedly had said he would quit boxing after this year, but his inability to land a rematch with Mayweather in September might have altered his plans.



"Let's just say my foot's got caught in the door," De La Hoya said. "My focus is my training. My focus is my next fight. I'm not going to talk about retirement. I'm not going to think about retirement. I want to be 100 percent focused on the job I've got to take care of, and we'll see after the fight how I feel."

De La Hoya will take on Pacquiao (47-3-2, 35 KOs) at the MGM Grand Garden, which has hosted each of his last six fights except his victory over Steve Forbes last May in Carson, Calif. Given De La Hoya's worldwide popularity and Pacquiao's fanatical following in his native Philippines, the fight seems likely to challenge the HBO pay-per-view records set by De La Hoya's fight with Mayweather.

"This is what boxing is all about," said Top Rank's Bob Arum, Pacquiao's promoter. "This fight will demonstrate to everyone that there is no sport universally as popular as boxing."

Talks for the long-discussed fight stalled last week before reaching a conclusion in recent days, but both fighters already have sized up their unlikely new opponents. De La Hoya vowed to prove he still has enough speed to take on the quick-fisted Pacquiao, while Pacquiao declared himself unafraid of going after a much bigger man.

"I know everybody thinks this fight will be a difficult fight for me," Pacquiao said. "I know some people say that it's a very easy fight for Oscar, but I always do my job in the ring, and I'll do my best to give a good fight and to win this fight. I think I can beat De La Hoya in this bout. I saw his last performance, and I think I'm faster and stronger than him, and I'm younger."

Golden Boy Promotions CEO Richard Schaefer and Arum wouldn't reveal their solution to the financial issues that nearly scuttled the deal earlier in the month, with Arum only saying, "each fighter had to give a little bit." De La Hoya wanted 70 percent of the revenue during initial discussions, while Pacquiao had insisted on 40 percent.

The fighters' money disparities seem much less important than their size difference. De La Hoya, who's four inches taller than Pacquiao, hasn't fought below 150 pounds in nearly eight years, while Pacquiao's victory over David Diaz in June was his first fight at even 135 pounds.

"A lot of people are going to be very surprised when we're standing next to each other," said De La Hoya, who weighed just over 150 pounds last week. "Size isn't going to be that much of a difference."

De La Hoya claimed he got extra motivation for the fight from Freddie Roach, Pacquiao's longtime trainer who filled in for Floyd Mayweather Sr. in De La Hoya's corner last year. Roach was eager to see Pacquiao take the fight, saying Pacquiao was too quick for the 35-year-old Golden Boy.

"I felt challenged, especially from an expert trainer like that," De La Hoya said. "He knows my style, and he knows Manny's, and for him to say that was a big challenge."

If De La Hoya remains privately committed to retirement, a fight with Pacquiao isn't an easy way to go out—but De La Hoya has rarely avoided major challenges in his 16-year professional career since winning a gold medal at the Barcelona Olympics. He has fought nearly every major name in his weight classes, and now he's even dipping down to the lighter ranks to find a bigger challenge than Sergio Mora, Paul Williams or other fighters suggested for his December bout.

"I have to find a way to increase my speed," De La Hoya said. "We're three months away, and we have to figure out quick how we're going to neutralize him. It's going to be an explosive fight. We're going to fight in the center of the ring."

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stretched this long, making prior commitments before today's match. Some are already in Las Vegas, Nevada to compete in the CNMI Labor Day Softball Tournament, while others have personal commitments on-and off-island and could not make it to today's game.

Mel Sakisat, one of the Rangers pitchers, said they may be left with 11 players come the final game. He said they will be missing catcher Robert Bansil and Clifton Sillil among others when Game 5 resumes today.

Sakisat is hoping that what occurred in Game 2 would not happen in Game 5. The Rangers had to forfeit the continuation of Game 2 as they had only eight players reporting for the match.

Rock Steady coach Joey Dela Cruz in an earlier interview with the *Saipan Tribune* said, from more than 20 players in the first round of the playoffs, they are down to 12 sluggers.

"We don't know yet, but we may also have only 11 players when we play Game 5 this Saturday," Dela Cruz said.

Rock Steady will also play without its catcher Manny Sablan and two more players.

The short best-of-five title showdown seemed endless, as games were suspended due to the rolling power outages. The recent one was Monday night's Game 5 at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield with the Rangers leading, 2-1, at the of the third inning

Before Game 5 was played, Rock Steady and the Rangers were able to finish the power outage-halted Game 4 with the former winning, 8-4, to tie the series at 2-all, and force a do-or-die match.

Game 4 was first played on Aug. 19, and Rock Steady was leading at the top of the seventh, 8-3, when the power went off. The continuation of Game 4 was scheduled for Aug. 22, but the match was called off due to rain.

The Rangers won Game 1, 15-10, forfeited Game 2, and claimed Game 3, 9-6, to move a win away from clinching the championship. But the Joeten Motors-sponsored squad could not finish the series when Rock Steady recovered in the extended Game 4.

Game 5 was set in the morning to finally wrap up the series, which will end today after 20 days.

The unpredictable power outages are momentum breakers, as neither Rock Steady nor the Rangers was able to win back-to-back games in the series.

At the same time, they were also causing fatigue to players, who took only a few minutes of rest before returning to the ballfield to play a new game.

Setting the continuation of Game 5 for Saturday gave teams four days of break and this rest will be crucial in today's deciding match, as players from both teams are expected to play extended minutes with the absence of some of their teammates.

HAWAII

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the second, attempted a comeback of its own in the bottom of the third.

The rally started when Caleb Duhay allowed a single and gave up a walk to begin the inning, but it looked as if he had the situation diffused after he got Emmanuel Rodriguez to hit a fly ball to right for the second out.

With runners on second and third, Eduardo Rodriguez hit a bloop single over first, which scored two and cut Hawaii's leads to 4-3. Duhay would not allow Mexico to get any closer. He struck out Sauceda to end the threat.

"Today I felt really confident," Duhay said. "I had all my pitches."

On the biggest stage in his young career, Duhay was brilliant. He held a Mexico team that had batted .393 in its first five games to six hits and three runs. He struck out seven in 5 1/3 innings of work.

After Duhay ended the Mexico rally, Hawaii brought its momentum to bat in the fourth.

Iolana Akau came up to the plate with two outs against Sauceda, who relieved Sergio Rodriguez. Akau hit a Sauceda fastball over the left-center field wall. He danced down the line as he sent Mexico's hopes of coming back with it.

"Right off the bat I knew it was gone," Akau said.

His home run rattled Sauceda. He proceeded to walk three of the next four batters and hit the other.

Unlike in past World Series outings, Sauceda did not feature his typical nasty fastball and great control. He struggled through his one inning.

Faced with the bases loaded and two outs, right-hander Klaus Muller came on in relief. Muller gave up an infield single to make it 7-3 before he struck out Donahue.

By now, it was evident Mexico was not the happy, confident team that had gone through World Series pool play and the playoffs unbeaten. Sauceda and his teammates' heads were down and their spirits even lower.

"All along I've been saying that it's just a matter of time before our bats woke up," Hawaii manager Timo Donahue said. "It seems like once we got here each game one bat would wake up and eventually they all did."

Waipahu tacked on four runs in the fifth and one in the sixth against Muller and Eduardo Rodriguez. Those runs pushed the score to 12-3 and secured the championship for Hawaii, the fourth straight for the United States.

The 12 runs for Hawaii were the most scored by one team in a World Series title game since Toms River, N.J., scored 12 to beat Japan in 1998.

"Did I expect the differential in scoring today?" Donahue said. "Not at all."

JI HOON

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like they are going to fall off. My ankles are better but they're still a problem."

The same ankle and leg injuries incidentally limited Heo in his championship match against good friend Lorenzo Pineda of Vanuatu in the 2008 POJC. He ultimately lost that one, 4-6, 2-6.

Heo arrived in Japan last Tuesday, Aug. 26, and started training right away, which was a tough grind considering he was coming off a 10-hour flight from Nadi, Fiji.

He said he is now focused in doing better in the second phase of the tournament, the Hyogo International Junior Tournament 2, scheduled from Sept. 3 to 7 in the same venue.

"I am right now preparing for the second tournament. Training is very hard. We run at 6:30 in the morning around the park 'till 7am and do sprints and a lot of physical training. And then we hit about an hour from 8-9am. Its' a bit hard to get courts. After the day, we come back at around 6pm. From 6-7:30pm we do running and physical training again. We do this every day. It's really hard but hopefully it'll pay off in the second tournament."

The result of Heo and his partner Issei Okamura of Japan's double match is still not available as of press time.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	81	51	.614	_
Boston	77	56	.579	4 1/2
New York	71	62	.534	10 1/2
Toronto	68	65	.511	13 1/2
Baltimore	63	70	.474	18 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	76	57	.571	_
Minnesota	75	59	.560	1 1/2
Cleveland	65	67	.492	10 1/2
Detroit	64	69	.481	12
Kansas City	56	77	.421	20

West Division

Los Angeles	81	52	.609	_
Texas	66	69	.489	16
Oakland	62	72	.463	19 1/2
Seattle	50	83	.376	31

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

New York	74	60	.552	_
Philadelphia	73	61	.545	1
Florida	68	66	.507	6
Atlanta	59	75	.440	15
Washington	49	85	.366	25

Central Division

Chicago	84	50	.627	_
Milwaukee	77	56	.579	6 1/2
St. Louis	74	60	.552	10
Houston	68	66	.507	16
Cincinnati	58	76	.433	26
Pittsburgh	57	76	.429	26 1/2

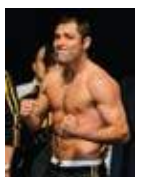
West Division

Arizona	68	65	.511	_
Los Angeles	65	69	.485	3 1/2
Colorado	63	72	.467	6
San Francisco	59	74	.444	9
San Diego	51	82	.383	17

Yesterday's Games

N.Y. Yankees 3, Boston 2
Tampa Bay 3, Toronto 2
Oakland 3, Minnesota 2
L.A. Angels 7, Texas 5
Houston 3, Cincinnati 2
Atlanta 4, Florida 2
Washington 11, L.A. Dodgers 2
Chicago Cubs 6, Philadelphia 4
Houston 3, Cincinnati 2
Atlanta 4, Florida 2
Washington 11, L.A. Dodgers 2
Chicago Cubs 6, Philadelphia 4

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Oscar confirms Pacquiao bout, bags retirement talk

Oscar De La Hoya finally has an opponent for his farewell fight–only the Golden Boy's tantalizing matchup with Manny Pacquiao might not be his final bout after all.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Top-seeded Ivanovic loses in huge upset

Even for the mathematics major from Clemson, it just didn't add up: How could someone who recently struggled so badly she wanted to quit tennis stay on the court with the No. 1 player in the world?

25

Ji Hoon knocked out in 1st round

MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Ji Hoon Heo bombed out in his first stint in the Land of the Rising Sun, losing in the opening round of the Hyogo International Junior Tournament 1 held at the Miki Disaster Management Park Beans Dome in Hyogo Prefecture, Japan.

The 16-year-old Marianas High School student went up against Japan's Shintaro Imai and lost 1-6, 3-6 in the competition's first day last Thursday, Aug. 27.

"My expectation was try making it to the quarterfinals but I lost in the first round," said Heo in an email to the *Saipan Tribune*.

Heo, who round up first runner-up of the boys' 18-under of the 2008 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships earlier this month, said the competition in Hyogo was nothing he has ever seen before.

"Although this is a Grade 5 tournament, the level is similar to the Grade B2 in Fiji. In Fiji, only some players are good but here everyone is good," he said.

While not one to make excuses about his performance, Heo however admitted that injuries that plagued him since the 2008 Open Junior BNP Paribas de Nouvelle Caledonie tournament still continue to bother him.

"I am doing fine except my legs feel

See JI HOON on Page 27

Ji Hoon Heo, seen here in a file photo, lost in the first round of the Hyogo International Junior Tournament 1 held at the Miki Disaster Management Park Beans Dome in Hyogo Prefecture, Japan.

INTERNATIONAL TENNIS FEDERATION

Tomorrow is RGA Sept. qualifier

The September Ace of the Month qualifier for the Refaluwasch Golf Association will be held tomorrow, Aug. 31, at the Kingfisher Golf Links in Talafofo.

Club tournament director Jess Wabol said the qualifier will have a tee-off time of 12pm so players must sign in an hour earlier, or at 11am. He said RGA has slots for 16 players for this weekend's qualifier.

Wabol also reminded Ace of the Month winners that they need to have played in a minimum of six tournaments (including qualifiers) in order to qualify for the yearend RGA Club Championship.

He said only four monthly championships remain before RGA's yearend Club Championship set on Dec. 6 at the Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort in Koblerville. The Club Championship assembles all 12 monthly champions, provided they qualify.

For more information about RGA's 2008 calendar of tournaments, contact RGA president Adam Hardwicke at 483-2926 or tournament director Jess Wabol at 233-3673. ***(Mark Rabago)***

What's left of Rock Steady, Rangers play Game 5 this morning

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With the continuation of the deciding Game 5 of the title series in the 2008 Budweiser Saipan Major League baseball tournament set for this morning, a power outage will not be a problem for the Ford Rangers and Rock Steady.

Manpower shortage will.

The Rangers and Rock Steady will have depleted lineups when they play the most important match in the title series today at 10am.

Several players from both teams did not expect the championship series to be

See WHAT'S on Page 27

MARK RABAGO
Ford Rangers pitcher Mel Sakisat, seen here batting in this file photo, said they may be left with 11 players in fifth and final game of the best-of-five 2008 Budweiser Saipan Major League championship series against pennant winner Rock Steady.

Hawaii rides wave of offense to World Series title

Japan takes third place after wild 4-3 win against Louisiana

By JESSE CAPUTO
LITTLE LEAGUE SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

By noon on Sunday, the terrace hills above Howard J. Lamade Stadium were colored in bright, family-sized blankets and filled with lawn chairs.

When the first pitch was thrown in the Little League World Series Championship Game, 28,500 fans had packed the hillside and grandstands.

Those same fans roared with euphoria at game's end and reveled in the accomplishment of the 12 Little Leaguers from Waipahu, Hawaii, who raced around the outfield, their Little League championship banner in one hand and the Hawaiian flag in the other.

Waipio Little League's offense hit Matamoros Little League, a team deep with pitching, all over the park in its 12-3 win, and earned Hawaii its second Little League World Series title in four years.

Things started off quickly for Hawaii in the first when leadoff hitter Christian Donahue slapped a single. Donahue moved to second on a wild pitch. One out later, hitting sensation Pikai Winchester stroked a single to left center, scoring Donahue to make it 1-0.

With a runner on base in the second, Tanner Tokunaga took the first pitch he saw from right-hander Sergio Rodriguez, a hanging breaking ball, and gave it a ride. The ball landed behind the bust of Lamade himself in dead center and expanded Hawaii's lead to 3-0.

"(Sergio) told me he was relaxed before the game," Mexico manager Gustavo Gomez said through an interpreter. "You have to understand this is one of the biggest games in this kid's life, so I can understand if he was a little nervous."

In the third, Rodriguez couldn't keep the Hawaiians in check, either. They tacked on their fourth run, thanks to two singles and help from Rodriguez. With runners on second and third, he threw a wild pitch to bring in the run.

Gomez attributed Rodriguez's wildness to his difficulty communicating with catcher Fernando Villegas. Rodriguez threw several pitches in the dirt and over Villegas' head and hitters were uncomfortable facing him. He struck out seven in 2 2/3 innings.

Mexico, which got a solo homer from Jesus Sauceda in

See HAWAII on Page 27

AP
Members of the Waipahu, Hawaii Little League World Series Championship team sign a giant bat after beating Matamoros, Mexico 12-3 in the Little League World Series Championship baseball game in South Williamsport, Pa., Sunday. Aug. 24, 2008.